

FINAL DISSEMINATION REPORT

August 2022



CONREP

Comparative Network on
Refugee Externalisation Policies

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The Network Partners are:

- The University of Melbourne
- Deakin University
- Monash University
- University of Bologna
- University of Geneva
- University of Gothenburg
- Western Sydney University

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ABOUT CONREP

The movement of refugees is one of the most pressing governance challenges of our time. In seeking to control – or prevent – the access of arrivals to their territory, Australia, the European Union (EU) and its member states employ a range of externalisation policies. These policies operate beyond the state to disrupt migration pathways by preventing individuals from reaching or entering a state’s territory.

Externalisation policies reshape the boundaries of sovereignty and blur the lines of responsibility among states. By avoiding their legal and political responsibility, many states violate their legal obligations. Externalisation deflects responsibility, transforming the governance of refugee protection and border control. Regional cooperation for refugee protection is weakened, and human rights protections are undermined. At a global level, migration pathways are disrupted, and refugees are often trapped in transit, placing them at risk. Nationally, some governments gain electoral advantage by being “tough” on border protection. The accelerating phenomenon of externalisation characterising these “tough” border protection policies requires a comprehensive analysis by researchers, civil society actors, refugees, and policy makers.

The Comparative Network on Refugee Externalisation Policies (CONREP) researches the impact and effects of the externalisation of refugee policies in two regions: Australia’s activities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific; and the European Union and its member states’ activities in North Africa and the Mediterranean. These policies exploit power asymmetries to transfer state and regional obligations and responsibility for asylum seekers and refugees to neighbouring states. At their most destructive, externalisation policies can prevent refugees from reaching safety, and breach their human rights.

CONREP has worked to sharpen our understanding of the dynamics behind these towards externalisation by focusing its activities on five core themes:

1. *Governance*: the implications of externalisation policies adopted by state and non-state actors at different levels of governance, including the repercussions for regional governance of the militarisation and securitisation of migration control, and the loss of solidarity and cooperation amongst states and regions.
2. *Legitimacy*: the impact of externalisation policies upon the legitimacy of states and regional bodies deploying these policies.
3. *Responsibility*: an examination of the exercise, delegation and “outsourcing” of legal and political responsibility, in state and non-state actor settings, and its effects upon refugees seeking protection.
4. *Democracy*: an examination of how externalisation shifts the ‘problem’ away from domestic scrutiny within states, towards political narratives of control and resistance to external and internal review and public debate.
5. *Human rights*: the impact of externalisation policies which disrupt migration pathways, upon access to human rights protections for refugees and asylum seekers.

CONREP is an interdisciplinary network of researchers from Australia and Europe. It consists of seven partner universities, led by the University of Melbourne. The other six partner universities are Deakin University, Monash University, Western Sydney University, the University of Bologna, the University of Geneva and the University of Gothenburg.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to provide this introduction to the dissemination report of the [Comparative Network on Refugee Externalisation Policies](#), known as CONREP. The Network, comprising a team of researchers across seven universities in Australia and Europe, has worked extensively over four years.

We developed our research programme on refugee externalisation over several months of extensive discussion and writing, in order to apply for European Commission funding under the Jean Monnet Network Scheme of the European Union's Erasmus+ funding. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the European Commission for the funding. I would also like to thank the University of Melbourne for providing the co-funding that is required for networks such as these. In addition, I thank the universities of the Network (Deakin University, Monash University, the University of Bologna, the University of Geneva, the University of Gothenburg and the Western Sydney University) for providing financial support or in-kind support.

The field of refugee studies has been enriched by the availability of funding, such as that awarded to CONREP, facilitating connections among the seven universities of CONREP, and connections with other universities, with civil society, with policymakers and, especially, with refugees themselves. These connections are reflected in this report and in our events, outreach and publications.

Research networks are, of course, expected to produce scholarly outcomes. This has certainly been the case for this Network. We have far exceeded what we had expected in terms of our publications. In addition, CONREP is very different from many research projects and networks. This is because it has a very clear focus on the research-policy nexus. This nexus means that the Network has also had impact beyond scholarly contexts, however important they are in themselves.

As can be seen in this report, CONREP held public lectures; seminars; international workshops; masterclasses; public forums; Early Career Researcher Workshops and mentoring sessions. Regarding its research-policy nexus, the Network partners met with members of civil society and policymakers. On 29 June 2022, CONREP held its Final Event, entitled *Showcasing CONREP*, where we showcased the research and activities of every member of the Network across the seven universities.

As a result of Covid restrictions, the majority of our events took place online. We were determined that this would provide us with the opportunity to ensure that our events had a broad reach, with a diversity of speakers. These events were complemented by a large number of publications, blog articles and media outreach.

I commend the editors of the edited scholarly collections and the editors of the CONREP Blog, and thank them for their commitment to the provision of a breadth of perspectives and original, incisive analysis. When we worked on the application for funding for the CONREP Network, the blog series was considered an original means of outreach and dissemination of research and understanding of refugee externalisation and the refugee experience.

We anticipated that the Network would provide an important outlet for Network partners, other scholars, refugees and civil society, to disseminate their experiences and new research findings and expert analysis on the different aspects of externalisation. Participants from our events were invited to engage with us and to publish blog pieces and other publications based on their own research and experiences. The vast range of publications produced over the four years provides a dynamic resource. Our research covers topical issues, the challenges and impacts of externalisation, whether from a refugee, practitioner or civil society point of view, but also more theoretical discussions on the implication of externalisation globally.

Our approaches has been interdisciplinary, transnational and comparative. They have been deep and broad in focus. They have utilised conceptual tools and research methods which have focused on the experiences of the actors involved. The Network adopted critical appraisals of research; understood the need for practices that transcend narrow narratives in public debate; and contested policies. Given the multifaceted nature of externalisation policies and practices, our approach encapsulated the many perspectives and issues involved.

Our events, publications and the blog provided a forum to communicate our research findings in an accessible manner, to give voice to the perspectives of refugees and civil society, to provide experience of publishing for emerging academics and PhD students and to engage in a public debate and discourse on the instruments and impacts of externalisation policies. These objectives have all been achieved.

The CONREP Network has made significant contributions to research regarding refugee externalisation policies since 2018. We hope that the many articles, edited collections and blog pieces will constitute a resource for policymakers, civil society and scholars. Our publications feature interdisciplinary and transnational research, contributing to a deepening of the knowledge of many, and often diverse, aspects of refugee policy. The research carried out by CONREP scholars and presenters at our events has illustrated that externalisation policies remain damaging, with substantial human and political costs. They have illustrated that alternatives are

required for humanitarian solutions to the challenges of refugee protection.

I am confident that our publications and the Blog not only constitute important resources, but provide important recommendations for alternative and humane, approaches for governments in Australia and Europe and for the European Union. Through the broad network of authors, who have provided evidence of harm to refugees and asylum seekers, they have contested externalisation strategies and practices and made the case for humane policies and practices. This example of research-policy nexus is an important feature of CONREP.

Impact and future: the views of the Network

Towards the end of the grant, the Network members devoted some time to reflect on CONREP's achievements and where our research and engagement should now be directed. Some key themes emerged. Firstly, the CONREP scholars were in agreement that academic engagement with refugees, with policymakers and politicians, and with civil society, on refugee externalisation is essential. This facilitates alignment with refugee concerns; enables access to policymakers and politicians; affords opportunities to work with and learn from civil society; and provides the opportunity to both teach and interact with academics and university students. However, although many academics engage directly with civil society, policymakers and especially, refugees, when it comes to policy, many policymakers and politicians remain reluctant to engage directly with academics. This was discussed in the CONREP Showcase event in June 2022 (the recording [here](#)). In many circumstances, governments retain a culture of control and of secrecy, associated with human rights abuses. Yet it is considered important to share research findings and promote sound and humane policy. Engagement with policymakers is critical to ensure that our research has positive results for affected communities and to bring about changes in policy.

Secondly, the importance of refugee voices was underlined. Through CONREP, we were committed to academic engagement with, and the active involvement of, refugees in our activities in order to respect and validate their experience and knowledge and to contest the silencing of refugee experiences. This was specifically discussed in the CONREP event 'Who is telling the story? 'Refugee' Narratives: voice, image, words' (recording available [here](#) and report available [here](#)), and the seminar regarding perceptions and narratives of refugees (recorded and available [here](#)).

CONREP sought to provide a space for refugees to tell their story and to be part of, and to drive, academic and policy debate and challenges deleterious narratives. Their lived

experience and their role in advocacy are key to changing policies, which often dehumanise refugees, and which undermine their lived experiences.

The policy-research nexus thus involves the experience of refugees. Refugees and refugee organisations must be at the forefront of policies and of research and civil society activism. It is increasingly evident that refugee voices require amplification and priority. Corrosive and dehumanising narratives require contestation, and this requires calling for change of government policies and EU policies of externalisation, of securitisation and militarisation.

Civil society representatives are knowledgeable and sensitive to refugee concerns and the need to change policy, and the impact on refugee lives and livelihood. The mutual sharing of academic knowledge and civil society experience resulted in cooperation to support refugee and human rights protections.

CONREP has illustrated that, in Europe and in Australia, as well as other states and regions, a continuing hardening of borders is evident, associated with the intention of deterring, controlling, and excluding particular groups of individuals from entering nation states.

The more we examined externalisation, the more important it was to understand its complexities and manifestations. It encompasses violence and harm, deterrence and imprisonment, for example. The term externalisation is used increasingly in scholarly research. We note that the UNHCR started to use this term, in its paper of May 2021, which reflects many of the themes of our research and advocacy, in its condemnation of cruel policies of states¹.

The work of CONREP has shown the challenges of engaging with policymakers at the national and EU level. The more we are able to provide evidence of the harm that externalisation policies cause, we hope that the harder it will be for governments to justify their actions. Our research has also illustrated the damages of both anti-refugee policies and narratives and, in some cases, an indifference to the human and political damage stereotypes.

Our CONREP policy reports present recommendations for more humane protection of refugees and reject damaging narratives and policies. They seek to ensure that the voices of those impacted by harsh border protection and other refugee externalisation policies are heard on their own terms. Policy proposals have been a major feature of CONREPs' work, particularly the contestation of all externalisation strategies and practices. CONREP has presented alternatives, such as equal rights for all refugees to a humane life within the state and the EU. CONREP research illustrates how the state refuses to take responsibility for refugee protection. ►

¹ UNHCR, 'Note on the "Externalization" of International Protection', 28 May 2021. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/60b115604.pdf> (accessed 27 June 2022).

I think that CONREP has provided the opportunity for those who attended or watched our events to become part of our broader CONREP community. This has been ensured through social media, particularly Twitter, and by our investment in the [website](#). Our [blog series](#) has been extremely dynamic, featuring experienced scholars, those with refugee experience, and early career scholars and PhD students. Transnational and comparative academic engagement with each other and with policymakers and politicians illustrates different forms of access to those making decisions about refugee policy. One of the objectives of CONREP's [policy reports](#) has been to engage in a conversation with government.

When reflecting on CONREP's work over the last four years, the Network considered the actions and policies now required to combat refugee externalisation. A key theme was the need for legal accountability and transparency of EU agencies and Australian and European governments and their contracts with private firms, including oversight of offshore processing and externalisation arrangements. There are many examples of human rights violations. CONREP is aware that states are adopting increasingly sophisticated methods of denying refugees access to their territories, and this continues to require research as well as proposals to combat practices that harm vulnerable communities.

Undertaking research on refugee externalisation has not been without challenges, including access to refugees; to sites of refugee externalisation; to detention centres; and to policymakers. Research can include the understanding of experiences of trauma, violence and abuse. Externalisation results in harm to refugees; involves human rights abuses; is financially very costly and is a failed policy. It undermines the global standing of states and places the international refugee system at risk.

Further, the Covid-19 pandemic and related limitations of freedom of movement and social and physical distancing rendered it more difficult for refugees to seek protection and for analysts to examine, for example, the sites of detention of refugees. Both European and Australian externalisation regimes have rendered the possibility of seeking protection more hazardous and often traumatic.

Contesting practices of refugee externalisation requires further examination of the root causes, manifestations, trends and effects. Academics seek to critique national and EU externalisation policies; including cooperation with other countries to externalise and distance policies and border control. Contestation includes calls for Frontex to be abolished; proposals to halt Australian and EU direct and indirect involvement in illegal pushbacks; and the promotion of awareness on mobility (in)justice and its consequences.

Despite extensive advocacy, and research which provides compelling evidence of the harms enabled through externalisation policies, states remain committed to harsh border policies. Changing narratives about refugees remains a fraught process unless there is a culture of political leadership

that is dedicated to making a difference. The violence of externalisation processes demands that states are held to account. We challenge domestic forms of externalisation, such as detention within a host state, in addition to detention in third countries. Actions are now required in legislation to ensure access to the rights to education; health care; employment; social security and citizenship.

Thanks to the CONREP grant, we have a tremendous body of research to engage with governments and the EU, as well as scholars and civil society. One imperative is to address myths about the value of offshore processing as a deterrent. Research has shown that policymakers draw on information that aligns with their values, with limited policy learning. Moreover, academics find it can be difficult to persuade policymakers to listen and accept expert recommendations.

The CONREP Network remains committed to further research on refugee externalisation. Scholars are working on research pathways; policy proposals; engagement of and with refugees; engagement with policymakers and civil society. These include discussing policy with the citizens of the host countries; and a commitment to public education, regarding borders and migration, in order to redress misconceptions, so that the general public is provided with the opportunity to learn more and is presented with alternatives. More emphasis on refugee agency is required. Academics should be involved in task forces aimed at assessing national and EU policies on refugee externalisation.

There is the opportunity to expand the geographical limits of our research to beyond Australia, the Asia Pacific, Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa. Given the persistent use of externalisation practices by signatory states, consideration of research includes, first, holding states to account (including legally) for their failure to meet their obligations under the Refugee Convention. Second, enhanced monitoring of places of detention is required especially through signatory status to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, with stronger collaborations with civil society. Third, narratives that frames refugees as threat or victim, can be countered by scholars and the media. Fourth, researchers can analyse third countries of origin and transit and the deals with receiving states by reluctant states. Fifth, there is a need for more recognition that people movement is a global issue requiring more joined up responses to manage movement in a fair, equitable and humane manner. Sixth, there is a need for more scrutiny of the impact of Covid-19 on refugee rights of access and protection, given the use of rhetoric relating to national interest. Seventh, we wish to see more representation of refugee speakers on their own terms, acknowledging their right to speak or not to speak and the importance of cultural differences and varieties of experiences. We see this as ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers have clear roles in leadership and partnership in research projects as well as in media representation. We also support continued partnership of those who walk alongside refugees and acknowledgement of, and respect for, their accounts of advocacy for people who

were incarcerated and in detention and denied a voice. Many members of CONREP and many scholars in Australia and Europe already work with civil society and provide briefings, drafting support for proposals and expert advice. This is a key component of the work of scholars on refugee externalisation that merits continued commitment. Eighth, our transnational and comparative research will continue, illustrating that Australia is not a model on refugee externalisation policies, but a cautionary tale. Work is already taking place on all of these issues and they merit more attention by policymakers too.

Thank you

I would like to express our thanks to the funding body, the European Commission, and in particular the European Education and Culture Executive Agency. I express my appreciation and gratitude to The University of Melbourne for its co-funding and for its support in hosting the Network. We were supported since 2018 by the School of Social and Political Science, the Faculty of Arts, the Finance Team and the Research, Innovation and Commercialisation Team. A research network is only as strong as its Research Coordinators, and we were very fortunate to have Dr Margherita Matera and Dr Tamara Tubakovic in that role at different stages of the grant. I thank Dr Nathan Gardner for his excellent work as events coordinator. I thank the partner universities for their support, including the financial support of Monash University, Deakin University, and Western Sydney University.

We had many external collaborators and co-sponsors of events held by CONREP and its universities, and we appreciate this scholarly, think-tank and civil society support. CONREP is very pleased to thank all the speakers at the CONREP events that were held over the last four years. We thank the civil society actors and policymakers who participated in various CONREP meetings. I express my gratitude to the Steering Committee Members: Ms Annabel Brown; Dr Jeff Crisp; Prof Guy Goodwin-Gill; Ms Josephine Liebl; Ms Pia Oberroi; Mr Paul Power and Ms Elly Schlein.

Our contributions are evident in what has been written, and so I express our thanks to all of the contributors to the CONREP Blog; and to all of the authors of the CONREP publications – the edited book, the journal special issues and the policy reports.

Finally, I would like to express CONREP's gratitude to those who attended our events, whether in person or online, or who watched the recorded versions after the events. Your input through your questions and comments was invaluable and dynamic.

I am very grateful to be part of this Network and to have had the great honour of being its Director.

Philomena Murray

PROJECT TEAM



PROFESSOR PHILOMENA MURRAY, DIRECTOR

Professor Philomena Murray, Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam*, is Honorary Professorial Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. She holds honorary positions at Trinity College Dublin and the United Nations University Institute for Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Bruges. She is Director of the Comparative Network on Refugee Externalisation Policies (CONREP), a Jean Monnet Network that examines the externalisation of refugee policies within the EU and Australia. She is a founder of Academics for Refugees. Research interests include refugee externalisation policies; EU legitimacy; comparative regionalism; EU-Asia relations and EU-Australia relations. She was Research Director on Regional Governance in the EU Centre on Shared Complex Challenges and Director of the Contemporary Europe Research Centre, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, both at the University of Melbourne. She has directed a number of international competitive research projects and networks.

Her distinguished contribution to her field is characterised by research excellence; leadership in international research consortiums; innovative pedagogy; teaching excellence and engagement with policy communities and the media.



KARIN ÅBERG

Karin Åberg's dissertation topic, *Humanizing European Migration law* concerns the development of asylum law as expressed in EU law and under the ECHR. She specifically examines how law and legal expectations interacts with humanitarianist values as well as ideas of the irregular migrant as an economic actor. Beside European asylum law, Åberg also writes about impoverished (Roma) EU migrants as well as the correlation between law and grassroot activism and is active in public debates on these subjects. Åberg has previously practiced law in Greece and Sweden, and worked with human rights advocacy in Brussels.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARCO BORRACCETTI

Associate Professor Marco Borraccetti holds a PhD in EU Law from the University of Bologna; he is Researcher and Senior Lecturer of European Union Law of the Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, School of Political Science, where he teaches EU Institutional Law and EU Immigration Law. He was recently appointed as co-director of the European Regional MA Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe where he teaches Migration and Human Rights.

He is the director of MigLab-Studi sulle Migrazioni, a center of the Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna and he is member of the Editorial board of *Diritto Immigrazione Cittadinanza* (Journal on Migration Law Citizenship). His current main research interests include migration, trafficking in human beings and human rights; the right to water and the EU development cooperation; the EU external borders policy; the judicial protection of fundamental rights in the EU. He is member of different Bologna teams working on migration issues: GLOBUS, a H2020 research project that critically examines the European Union's contribution to global justice; ESPON 2020 Programme ECTG, on Territorial and Urban Potentials Connected to Migration and Refugee Flows; AMIF, Arts Together, Integrating migrant children at schools through artistic expression

Marco was Visiting Scholar at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, European Union Center (2015), and Visiting Professor at Université Libre de Bruxelles – Institut d'Etudes Européennes (2011).



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AZADEH DASTYARI

Dr Azadeh Dastyari is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at Western Sydney University with expertise in international refugee law, human rights law, international maritime law, and constitutional law. She is particularly interested in the interception of people seeking protection at sea; offshore and extraterritorial processing; the regulation of dissent and protest; and the human rights implications of digital exclusion. Azadeh is a founding Director of the Western Sydney School of Law's Network for Law and Human Rights. She has developed training resources for UNHCR staff in the Middle East and North Africa Region on protection at sea and has been a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School (Fulbright and Lionel Murphy scholar); the European University Institute; Georgetown University and the University of Bologna.



ADJUNCT PROFESSOR FEDERICO FERRI

Dr Federico Ferri is an Adjunct Professor of EU Law and Tutor of International Law at the University of Bologna and works within the Schools of Law and Political Science. He holds a PhD in European Law from the Universities of Bologna and Strasbourg (2015) and a Specialising Masters in Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention (2011). Federico is also a civil attorney in the municipality of Bologna and collaborates with companies, institutions and reviews in Italy and abroad. In particular, he monitors the evolution of the EU secondary law and jurisprudence on migration on behalf of the journals *Immigrazione*, *it and Diritto*, *immigrazione e cittadinanza*. He conducts research in a variety of fields relating to sustainable development and innovation, environment, energy, alternative finance, an intellectual/industrial property. Federico has a special interest in the concept, nature and legal implications of sustainable development, migration, and the protection of fundamental human rights.



DR ELENA GIACOMELLI

Dr Elena Giacomelli is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology and Business of Law at the University of Bologna. She is now working on environmental change and migration dynamics. She obtained a PhD, conducting an ethnographic research on social workers with asylum seekers and refugees. In order to anchor her research to practice, she worked for two years as a social worker with asylum seekers and refugees with the Association Centro Astalli. Her research and publications focus on social work with asylum seekers and refugees, migration dynamics, ethnography, cultural sociology. She has conducted many studying and working experiences abroad. In 2018 Elena was a visiting research fellow at the University of the Western Cape (South Africa). In 2016 she took an internship in the Australian Population and Migration Research Center (University of Adelaide). She conducted her Master dissertation in the Third World Studies Center, in The Philippines, focusing internally displaced people due to environmental change. During her Masters, she spent one semester in the Metropolitan University of Prague, where she took part in the research project “Current Migration to Europe: Research of Smart Population Dynamics”. In 2014, she was a Bachelor exchange student at the University of Melbourne.



ASHER HIRSCH

Asher Hirsch is a Senior Policy Officer with the Refugee Council of Australia, the national umbrella body for refugees and the organisations and individuals who support them. His work involves research policy development and advocacy on national issues impacting refugee communities and people seeking asylum. Asher is also completing a PhD at Monash University in refugee and human rights law. His research investigates Australia’s migration control activities in Southeast Asia, which aim to prevent asylum seekers from reaching Australian territory and seeking protection. He holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Human Rights Law, a Juris Doctor and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice.



PROFESSOR SANDRA LAVENEX

Professor Sandra Lavenex is a Professor of European and International Politics at the University of Geneva and Visiting Professor at the College of Europe where she teaches European asylum and immigration policies in their internal and external dimensions. Sandra Lavenex obtained her PhD from the European University Institute in Florence in 1999 for a thesis on *The Europeanization of Refugee Policies: Between Human Rights and Internal Security* (Ashgate 2001) and has pioneered the study of EU external migration policies with her book *Safe Third Countries: Extending the EU Asylum and Immigration Policies to Central and Eastern Europe* (Central European University Press 1999). These topics have remained an important pillar of her research and have been expanded to the field of international cooperation on migration more broadly including the nexus with development and trade policies and the comparative analysis of regional cooperation on refugee protection, mobility and migration.



DR CLAIRE LOUGHNAN

Dr Claire Loughnan is a Lecturer in Criminology, at the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne. Her research examines the modes, practices and effects of living and working in sites of confinement and on the carceral expansion accompanying border control practices. She has published in *Globalizations*, *UNSW Law Journal*, *Asia Pacific Journal of Migration*, *Crime Media Culture*, *Incarceration; An International Journal of Imprisonment, Detention and Coercive Control*, and *Law Text Culture*. Her first book, on the institutional effects of immigration detention, is under contract with Routledge (forthcoming 2023). She is currently exploring practices of ‘neglect’ as a tool in the externalisation of refugee policies. Claire is a committee member of the Carceral Geography Network, and Co-convenor of the University of Melbourne branch of ‘Academics for Refugees’. She is also a member of the Australia OPCAT (Optional Protocol for the Convention Against Torture) Network. In 2021, she collaborated with artist Hoda Afshar in 2021, on a film created by Afshar - *Agonistes* - which examined the experiences of staff speaking out about institutional violence, including those working in immigration detention and offshore processing centres.



DR MARGHERITA MATERA

Dr Margherita Matera is a research fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne and Research Coordinator of CONREP. Her research and publications focus on the European Union’s security and defence cooperation, the EU as a foreign policy, security and crisis management actor, the externalisation and securitisation of EU refugee policy, NATO and the transatlantic relationship, EU-Australia relations, and comparative regionalism. In 2015, she was the recipient of the Summer Research Scholar Program Grant from the European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. She teaches on EU integration, comparative European politics and international relations. She co-edited a special issue of the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* on EU-Australia Relations, published in 2018 with Professor Philomena Murray. In 2017 she was awarded, along with Professor Murray, a two-year Jean Monnet Project to further explore EU-Australia relations.



PROFESSOR PIERLUIGI MUSARÒ

Professor Pierluigi Musarò is Full Professor of Sociology, Culture and Communication at the Department of Sociology and Business Law, University of Bologna, Italy. He is Honorary Professor at Melbourne University, and Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science, at the Institute for Public Knowledge-New York University (USA), and at Monash University (Australia). He is author of several books and papers in the field of media and migration, borders and human rights, performing arts and active citizenship. He is President of the Italian NGO YODA; founding Director of I.T.A.CÀ_migrants and travellers: Festival of Responsible Tourism; and a founding member of the Italian Network against Hate Speech.



DR AMY NETHERY

Dr Amy Nethery is a Senior Lecturer in Politics and Policy at Deakin University. She researches the development and impact of asylum policies in Australia and Asia, with a focus on transnational cooperation on border control. An important theme of her work is the analysis of asylum policy according to democratic norms of policymaking. She has a particular interest in immigration detention: its history, evolution, diffusion, legal status, consistency with democratic norms, and human impact. Her article “Australia-Indonesia Cooperation on Asylum Policy” (*Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 2014) was awarded the 2014 Boyer Prize for the best article published in that journal that year, and was assessed most likely to have lasting impact on policymaking.

On Australian asylum policy, Dr Nethery’s PhD thesis entitled *Immigration Detention in Australia* won the Isi Leibler Prize in 2011 for the thesis that best advances our knowledge of racism in Australia. An edited volume entitled *Immigration Detention: The Migration of a Policy and its Human Impact* (with SJ Silverman, Routledge 2015) provides a global survey of the now ubiquitous, yet quite diverse, policy of immigration detention. Dr Nethery was a visiting fellow to the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford in 2013. She teaches the unit *Asylum Challenges in Australia and Asia*, and supervises research students on this topic.



PROFESSOR GREGOR NOLL

Professor Gregor Noll has been recently appointed to a chair in international law at the School of Business, Economics and Law at Gothenburg University after holding the chair of international law at Lund University between 2005 and 2018. His research is mainly in the areas of migration law, the law of armed conflict, the theory of international law, and the effects of AI on law. Noll held the prestigious Pufendorf Chair at Lund University from 2012 to 2016 and co-launched the Gothenburg/Lund/Uppsala Migration Law Research Network in 2011. With a group of junior and mid-career research fellows, he transformed Lund into a brand for interdisciplinary research in international law. He has regularly published on the asylum and migration laws and policies of the European Union, and is currently researching the interaction between demography, democracy and migration law.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARIA O’SULLIVAN

Associate Professor Maria O’Sullivan is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law, Monash University and a Deputy Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law. Her teaching and research interests are administrative law, public law and international refugee law. Maria has completed a PhD thesis on cessation of refugee status under Article 1C(5) of the 1951 Refugee Convention and is the author of a number of international and national publications on the subjects of refugee law.

Her latest book examines the durability of refugee protection: *Refugee Law and Durability of Protection: Temporary Residence and Cessation of Status* (Routledge, 2019). She also co-edited a volume on access to refugee protection and procedures: *States, the Law and Access to Refugee Protection – Fortresses and Fairness* (Hart, 2017), co-authored with Dallal Stevens, University of Warwick. This brings together contributions from international leading scholars and examines two of the most pertinent current challenges faced by asylum seekers in gaining access to international refugee protection: the obstacles to physical access to territory and barriers to accessing a quality asylum procedure. Maria is a regular media commentator on refugee law and policy and has been published by *The Conversation*, *Refugees Deeply* and *Asylum Insight*.



DR KELLY SODERSTROM

Dr Kelly Soderstrom is an academic staff member in the Faculty of Business and Economics at The University of Melbourne. Her PhD thesis in Politics and International Relations (Faculty of Arts, The University of Melbourne) entitled “Responsibility, Refugees, and Crisis: An Analysis of the German Government’s Response to the 2015-2016 Asylum Governance Crisis” passed in 2022 without revisions. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) in Political Science / International Relations from Carleton College (USA) and a Master of Science degree (distinction) in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh (UK). Her research interests include asylum governance, European integration, organisational and institutional studies, and sustainability/CSR.

Kelly has published in a variety of academic journals, including the *Journal of Citizenship and Globalisation Studies* and *Advances in Management Accounting*. Her research has also been highlighted by a range of media outlets including *The Conversation*, *Pursuit*, and *Young Diplomats Society*. She has taught widely on EU politics and integration; public policy; International Relations; refugee studies; and sustainability/CSR. She has also given guest lectures at a variety of global institutions including the European University Institute, University of Hohenheim, Charles Darwin University, and the Melbourne School of Population & Global Health.

In 2018, Kelly was awarded a graduate fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.



DR TAMARA TUBAKOVIC

Dr Tamara Tubakovic is a Teaching Fellow in Public Policy and European Studies in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick. Tamara was awarded a PhD in Political Science from the University of Melbourne in 2021. Her research intersects the fields of public policy, European Union politics, and refugee and border studies. Her work focuses on the politics of EU asylum policy reforms; the interaction between ideas and crises in public policy; and the construction and consequences of refugee externalisation policies.

Tamara has published widely on EU, UK, and Australian asylum policy and politics in both academic and policy relevant sources. She has also published work comparing the EU and ASEAN regional approaches to refugees and the prospects for an EU-Australia rights-based approach in Southeast Asia. Her current research explores processes of policy convergence on refugee externalisation practices, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on asylum policies in Australia, the UK and Europe.

Tamara has undertaken several visiting fellowships, including at the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford and at the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute in Florence. She has taught widely on EU politics and integration; public policy theory and analysis; crisis management; and on refugee policy, politics, and law.

COMPLETED PHDS

A number of the CONREP early career researchers completed their PhD during the duration of the grant.



Photo: Elena defending her thesis online due to the COVID-19 pandemic

ELENA GIACOMELLI

Elena, who was enrolled at the University of Bologna completed her PhD thesis, *‘Gli operatori di accoglienza: significati e contraddizioni di una professione in divenire. Un’indagine etnografica nella Provincia Autonoma di Trento’* (Social workers with asylum seekers and refugees: meanings and contradictions of a profession in the making. An ethnographic research in the Autonomous Province of Trento) on 20 March 2020 within the discipline of Sociology of Culture and Communication. Elena was supervised by Professor Pina Lalli from the Department of Political Sciences.

Thesis Abstract:

How does the Italian system for asylum seekers and refugees work? How are the intrinsic characteristics of the system affecting the (new) professional figures involved? Are there any hidden grammars of action arising? This research subsumes, respects, and tries to move beyond the questions raised above. The purpose of the research is to reflect on the role social workers have as street-level bureaucrats, considering their discretionary margins of actions and their consequences. The thesis is divided into few steps. Before proceeding to a more detailed analysis of the role of social workers as street-level bureaucrats, it will highlight the historical and political turning points of the Italian reception systems and clarify in what sense the immigration issue has become a local matter. The case study of this research is the Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy. Moving from an engaged, action-oriented ethnography, this study adopts a qualitative research design, comprising of a diary field notes, 55 in-depth interviews with social workers, and two focus-groups with holders of an international protection. For two years working within the framework of a Temporary Reception Center (CAS), with the Association Centro Astalli, the researcher has been able to observe how the different actions, ideals and roles of the various social workers significantly influence and shape the experiences and paths of the beneficiaries of the reception programs. Through a (re)politicization of their ‘margins of action’ and the juxtaposition of visual ethnographic practices, the research recognizes the effects of the structural violence of the system through processes of depersonalization and infantilization, ambiguous and containment practices but also highlights the possibility of effective forms of resistance and daily struggle through the street-level margins of action of social workers. Therefore, the hypothesis of this research is that while local authorities have the greater discretion in the reception system choices, a new form of street-level bureaucracy is developing through street-level practices of social workers inside the reception centres. This research adopts a reflective perspective towards a reception system that the contemporary Italian normative seeks to dismantle. It is in fact an attempt to de-construct the complexity of the reception system, addressing both its grain lines and its deepest hubs, focusing on biographical experiences and individual actions.



Photo: Tamara, on the day she submitted her thesis for examination.

TAMARA TUBAKOVIC

Tamara, who was enrolled at the University of Melbourne, was awarded her PhD for her thesis, *'The Challenges of Reforming the Dublin System. A Critical Assessment of the Institutional Constraints on EU Asylum Policy-Making'* on 30 June 2021 within the discipline of Political Science. Tamara's PhD supervisors were Professor Philomena Murray and Dr Margherita Matera, from the School of Social and Political Sciences, members of the CONREP Network.

Thesis Abstract

The EU's current system for distributing responsibility for asylum seekers, known as the Dublin Regulation, has failed to fulfil its core objectives of preventing secondary movement and ensuring swift and equal access to protection procedures for all asylum seekers. The thesis examined why such an ineffective and failed asylum system has persisted, despite widespread recognition from EU policymakers that change was necessary. This thesis argues that the institutional context within which decision-making takes place has shaped policy outcomes by constraining actor behaviour and strategies during the policy-making process. It illustrates how perceptions around institutional responsibility shaped the willingness for ideationally motivated policy actors to act on the opportunity structures created by institutional change and crisis to pursue major reforms. This has prompted the Commission, Parliament and successive Council Presidencies to adopt pragmatic approaches to reform aimed primarily at accommodating the various national interests. As a result, the re-negotiations have been characterised by continuity regarding the responsibility principles of the Dublin system.



Photo: Kelly, on the day her Graduation.

KELLY SODERSTROM

Kelly, who was enrolled at the University of Melbourne, completed her PhD thesis, *'Responsibility, Refugees, and Crisis: An Analysis of the German Government's Response to the 2015-2016 Asylum Governance Crisis'* on 30 May 2022 within the discipline of Political Science. Kelly's PhD supervisors were Dr Margherita Matera, Professor Philomena Murray and Dr Claire Loughnan, all from the School of Social and Political Sciences and members of the CONREP network.

Thesis Abstract

This thesis examines how the German government responded to the arrival of asylum seekers in 2015-2016, focusing on changes in German asylum policy as the result of a profound reconsideration of state responsibilities. The administrative, political, and social pressures associated with the arrival of 1.2 million asylum seekers created a crisis of governance for the German government. This "asylum governance crisis" challenged the German government's management of asylum and forced displacement. In response to these pressures, the German government introduced a combination of expansive and restrictive changes to asylum legislation. By developing a typology of state responsibilities and associated state obligations in asylum governance, the thesis analyses how shifts in the German government's management of tensions among responsibilities shaped German asylum governance. The thesis compares responsibilities and related obligations underlying German asylum governance in the pre-crisis (1945-2014) and crisis-response (2015-2018) periods to identify how state responsibilities shaped asylum legislative innovation and redesign. The thesis finds that the German government's management of tensions among state responsibilities altered policy goals and delineated the boundaries of policy instrument development in responding to the crisis. The government sought to achieve an equilibrium among a number of often overlapping and often competing policy options using a logic of deservingness and a utilitarian rationale, which ultimately shaped asylum governance.

EVENTS

One of the most significant ways that CONREP has disseminated its work and engaged with colleagues around the world has been through the hosting of events. As outlined in Table 1, CONREP hosted a vast range of events, ranging from international workshops, public lectures and forums, to seminars and masterclasses. In total, CONREP held 60 events during the period of the grant. CONREP was fortunate to host a number of events with many partners outside of the Network, thus broadening the reach of CONREP to new audiences, including beyond Europe and Australia. During the first 18 months of the grant, events were held in-person and hosted by the various partner institutions in both Australia and Europe.

The Network was obliged to change its event delivery model following the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic in March 2020, as public health regulations made it impossible for CONREP to hold face-to-face events and to allow CONREP partners to travel between and within Australia and Europe. CONREP adapted to the restrictions imposed by the global

pandemic and developed new events that were held virtually, drawing on fresh perspectives across the Network and beyond. CONREP partners held a large number of webinars, providing an important forum for CONREP members and a wider network of academics, refugees, policy-makers, civil society and the public to engage. The webinars provided the opportunity to CONREP to broaden its audience beyond those individuals who could physically attend an event and thus rendered the work of CONREP more accessible, especially to colleagues in the Global South and those who would have been unable to travel. By utilising webinars, CONREP recorded a large number of its events, thus allowing for interested persons to watch the event at their leisure. These recordings not only represent an important source of dissemination, they are also a legacy of four years of research, policy-research nexus, and outreach. These recordings can be accessed via the [CONREP website](#) or [CONREP YouTube channel](#).

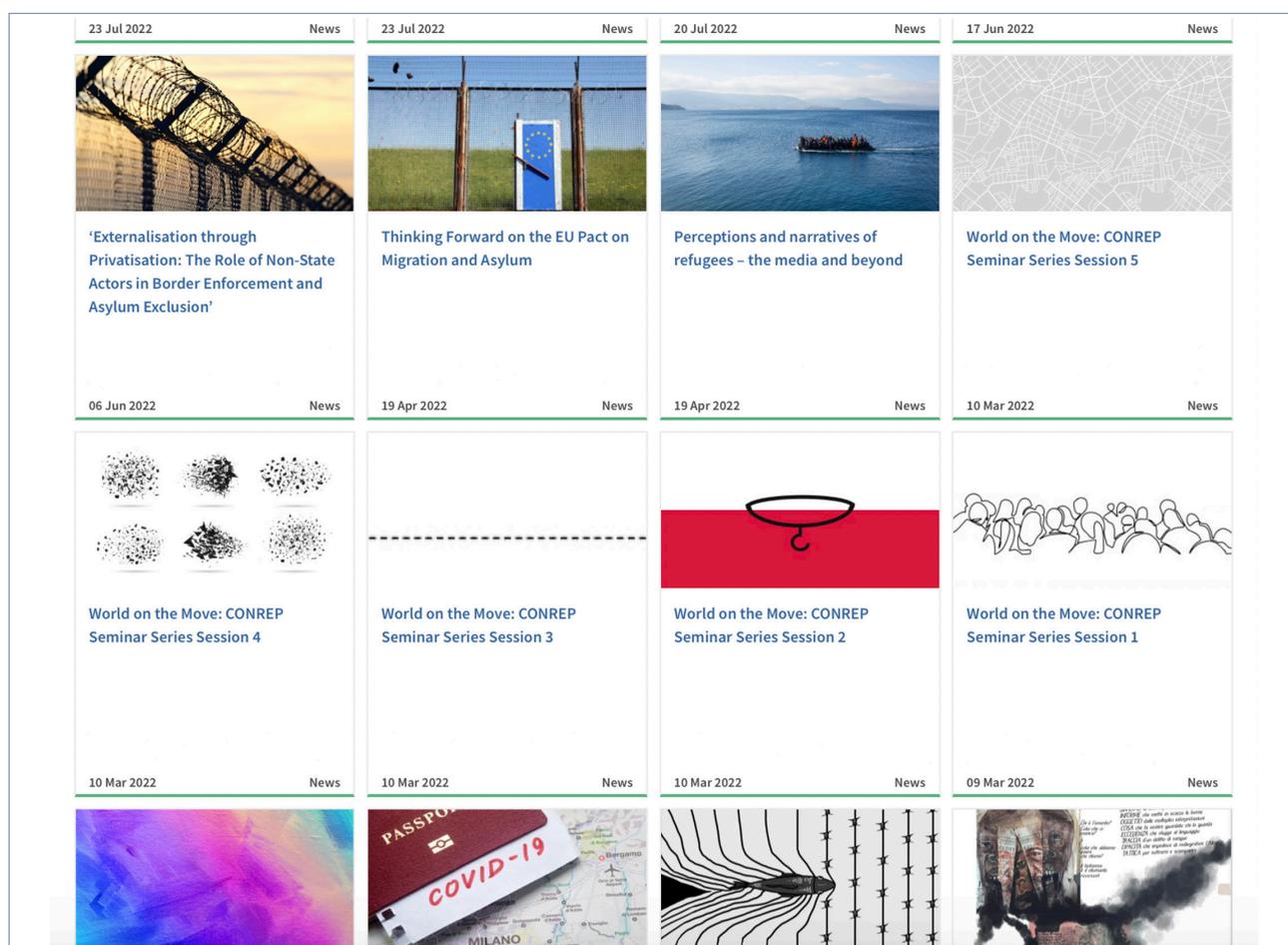


Photo: A snapshot of advertised events on the CONREP website

Table 1: Complete list of Events held during the CONREP Network grant

DATE	EVENT
21 November 2018	Public Lecture - Crossing the Border: How do NGOs campaign for refugee rights in Italy? What has worked
13 March 2019	Guest Lecture - Australian immigration law and policy from European Colonisation to today
16 April 2019	Guest Lecture - EU migration policy and assumptions about borders
12 June 2019	Masterclass - Rethinking borderlands. (In)visible borders in Europe and Australia
14 June 2019	International Workshop - Responsibility, Legitimacy and Accountability
25 November 2019	Public Forum - Conversation on Refugees: International and Australian perspectives on responsibilities
12 February 2020	Seminar - "Aware Migrants": The role of information campaigns in the management of migration
17 February 2020	Masterclass - Researching Refugee Externalisation: Approaches and Challenges
18-19 February 2020	International Workshop - Refugee Externalisation Policies: Responsibility Sharing or Responsibility Shedding?
18 February 2020	Public Forum - Responsibility Sharing and Responsibility Shedding: Australia's Refugee Policies in the Asia Pacific
7 September 2020	Guest Lecture - The Cat and Mouse Game of Refugee Policy Eternalisation: Between Law and Politics
23 September 2020	Public Lecture - Climate Emergency, Refugee Protection and Externalisation Policies
8 October 2020	Masterclass - Policy and Policy Change/Consistency in Asylum Governance (in collaboration with the Melbourne Social Equity Institute)
26 October 2020	Seminar - COVID-19, libera circolazione a tutela dei migranti (COVID-19, free movement and protection of migrants)
28 October 2020	Seminar - From Ethiopia to the University of Bologna: the University corridors for student refugees fighting against border closures
2 November 2020	Seminar - Protezione internazionale e procedure di frontiera (International Protections and Procedures at Frontiers)
10 November 2020	Seminar - Made in Italy: TCNs, Caporalato, Organized Crime and Agromafia
11 November 2020	Seminar - The Politics of Crisis-Making: Neither for Rights, Nor for Needs
12 November 2020	Seminar - Innovations in Activism in the Digital Era: Campaigning for Refugee Rights
14 November 2020	Seminar - Global Compact on Migration (part of Expert forum on 'The Two UN Compacts - Refugees and Migrants: challenges and implementation in Europe')
18 November 2020	Seminar - From Refugee to Activist: A Life Through, From and Against Externalization Policies
25 November 2020	Seminar - Trafficking in Human Beings and Victims' Protection in the Council of Europe Legal Framework
26 November 2020	Seminar - Researching for Change: Empowering Affected Communities through High Impact Research
2 December 2020	Seminar - Politics and Poetics of Expressing the Encounter with the Other in Migration
23 February 2021	Seminar - Interdisciplinary Research: Melding Methodologies Theories and Research Identities in Migration Studies. The event was organised in collaboration with The Research Centre for Refugee, Migration, and Humanitarian Studies (Australian Catholic University) and CONREP
12 March 2021	Seminar - Dalla Nigeria all'Italia: albinismo e migrazioni

26 May 2021	PhD/ECR Event - Refugee and Migration Policy: How to partner with and influence policymakers. This event was organised in collaboration with The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) Migration, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (MEM) Thematic Group; with support from the University of South Australia.
27 May 2021	Workshop - Resistance, Asylum and the Medical Border
2 June 2021	Seminar - The effects of refugee policy externalisation on target countries and international institutions: diluting or diffusing international norms? This event was organised in collaboration with the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute.
3 June 2021	PhD and Early Career Researcher Event - Grant Writing Strategies: Insights from CONREP
10 August 2021	Seminar - Who Is Telling the Story? 'Refugee' Narratives: Voice Image Words
17 August 2021	PhD and Early Career Researcher Event - Post-PhD Careers in Academia and Beyond This event was organised in collaboration with the Melbourne Social Equity Institute.
30 August 2021	Guest Lecture - Why Solidarity in the field of asylum and refugee protection cannot work in the European Union
31 August 2021	Seminar - Australia's Legal Obligation to Protect Afghan Interpreters
3 September 2021	Early Career Researcher Workshop - Careers in Research and Beyond
11 October 2021	Seminar - Parole, dolore, potere: eterogeneità dei linguaggi nel lavoro psicoterapeutico con persone sopravvissute a violenza e a tortura
13 October 2021	Seminar - Batman goes to Congo. How celebrities disrupt the politics of development
19 October 2021	Guest Lecture - Perspectives on Australia's refugee externalisation policies: comparisons, advocacy and scholarship
26 October 2021	Seminar - Pianificazione come espropriazione: razza, classe e casa nella città post-socialista
27 October 2021	Seminar - Migration Governance: policies to govern migration across levels of government
4 November 2021	Seminar - When Crisis Never Ends: Humanitarianism at the Spanish–Moroccan Border
10 November 2021	Seminar - Documentary on Libya Conditions
15 November 2021	Seminar - Diritti umani al confined empowerment femminile: quale ruolo per l'Unione europea
15 November 2021	Guest Lecture - Australia and Refugee Policy Externalisation
15 November 2021	Seminar - Mediterraneo e sconfinamenti. Open Arms, tra operazione umanitaria e politica
22 November 2021	Seminar - Il grande muro: come la frontiera europea si è spostata in Africa
15 December 2021	Seminar - Participation and Resistance through Arts and Culture
9 March 2022	Seminar - Immaginari Sociali (Social Imaginaries)
16 March 2022	Seminar - Hardening Borders in Pandemic Times
23 March 2022	Seminar - The Global Spread of Safe Country Policies: Political Science and Legal perspective
23 March 2022	Seminar - Cura e corpi politici (Care and Political Bodies)
20 April 2022	Seminar - S/confinamenti (de/bordering)
27 April 2022	Seminar - Thinking forward on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum
28 April 2022	Workshop - Resistance, Migration and the Medical Border

4 May 2022	Public Forum - Perceptions and narratives of refugees - the media and beyond
11 May 2022	Seminar - Identità (Identities)
15 June 2022	Seminar - Externalisation through Privatisation: The Role of Non-State Actors in Border Enforcement and Asylum Exclusion. The event was organized in collaboration with the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute, and the (B)orders Centre at Queen Mary University
21 June 2022	Seminar - Mappature (Mapping)
29 June 2022	CONREP Final Event - Showcasing CONREP

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

CONREP held two international workshops pre-COVID-19. In 2019, the first workshop was held at the Monash Prato Centre in Italy. The second workshop was held at Deakin University (Melbourne) in Australia in February 2020. It marked the last major face-to-face event that CONREP held before the COVID-19 global pandemic made it impossible to host in person events.

International workshop: Responsibility, Legitimacy and Accountability, 14 June 2019, Monash Prato Centre, Prato, Italy

This workshop brought together academics, NGOs and former refugees to investigate the impact and effects of externalisation of asylum policies in two regions: Australia's activities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific; and the EU and member states' activities in North Africa. The workshop examined the various forms of externalisation, including interception at sea; detention; third country interceptions and border policing. It discussed the impact these policies have on refugees' access to safety. Sessions also explored the effect of externalisation on notions of responsibility, legitimacy and accountability. Further information on the workshop is available on the [CONREP website](#).

In addition, a blog on the workshop was produced by Kelly Soderstrom and is available on the [CONREP Blog](#).



Participants at the workshop in Prato

International workshop: Refugee Externalisation Policies: Responsibility Sharing or Responsibility Shedding?, 18-19 February 2020, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia.

This workshop brought together academics, civil society representatives and people of refugee background to investigate the impact and effects of externalisation of asylum policies in two regions: Australia's activities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific; and the EU and member states' activities in North Africa and the Mediterranean.

The workshop focused on the broad implications of externalisation policy in the regions of North Africa and Southeast Asia, and globally. Sessions assessed the impact and responses of regional organisations, such as the European Union, the African Union, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; and the role of other organisations, including not-for-profit corporations, international organisations, and civil society organisations. Finally, it examined the impact of these policies on the people seeking asylum. Specific case studies from North Africa; the Balkans; Eastern Europe; Southeast Asia and the Pacific facilitated a deep examination of the political and social context of externalisation policies, and their human impact.

Further information, including the workshop program, is available on the [CONREP website](#).



Participants at the Workshop



Speakers from the Gender matters and the role of civil society panel. From left to right: Claire Loughnan, Maria Giannacopoulous, Kate Ong, Richard Vogt and Gilbert Jun Shin Mak

PUBLIC LECTURES AND FORUMS

Crossing the Border: How do NGOs Campaign for Refugee Rights in Italy? What has worked, 21 November 2018, The University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

The first Public Lecture was held at the University of Bologna. Taking as a starting point the potential of video for advocacy purposes, as well as a postcolonial approach, this Public Lecture explored how NGOs campaigns for refugee rights been rising and developing in the Italian context. How do they choose the topic? How do they represent it?. The panelists – **Dr Nina Hall** (Johns Hopkins University), **Dr Fiori Berhane** (Brown University), **Dr Sara Creta** (Italian multimedia journalist) and Associate **Professor Pierluigi Musarò** (University of Bologna) – tried to answer and move beyond these questions by, at the same time, focusing on how communicative capacity influences visibility and self-expression in this Mediterranean country.

Conversations on Refugees: International and Australian Perspectives on Responsibilities, 25 November 2019, The University of Melbourne and the Embassy of France, Melbourne, Australia

CONREP partners at the University of Melbourne co-hosted with the Embassy of France in Canberra (Australia), a Public Forum which explored the important issue of responsibility for refugee protection from a variety of perspectives. The panellists were **Professor Catherine Wihtol de Wenden** (CERI), **Professor Michelle Foster** (the University of Melbourne), **Dr Claire Loughnan** (the University of Melbourne) and **Dr Ali Reza Yunespour** (the University of Melbourne). The panellists examined current international challenges, with a specific focus on the Australian and European experiences, and assessed the implications of the changing narratives about responsibility, including how responsibility is exercised or avoided. They explored the implications of recent policy shifts about what constitutes an acceptable response to refugee protection. They discussed the direct impact of these shifts on the people seeking such protection and on the society in which they seek to settle. The panel was moderated by **Misha Ketchell** from *The Conversation Australia*. The event was recorded and is available on the [CONREP website](#).



From left to right: Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, Michelle Foster, Claire Loughnan, Ali Reza Yunespour and Misha Ketchell

Responsibility Sharing and Responsibility Shedding: Australia's Refugee Policies in the Asia Pacific, 18 February 2020, Deakin Downtown, Melbourne, Australia

This Public Forum began with a 20 minute film by **Hoda Afshar** entitled *Remain*. **Dr Jeff Crisp** (Oxford University) gave a presentation entitled "Global Refugee Policy: Where are we heading?". He was followed by two speakers, **Behrouz Boochani** (via skype from New Zealand) and **Sahar Okhovat** (Refugee Council of Australia). A Question and Answer session was followed by an informal reception. The forum was recorded and is available on the [CONREP website](#).



Photo: (from left to right) Jeff Crisp, Sahar Okhovat and Hoda Afshar



Photo: Behrouz Boochani presenting via Skype

Climate Emergency, Refugee Protection and Externalisation Policies, 23 September 2020, the University of Gothenburg, Sweden (online event)

A Public Lecture on 'Climate Emergency, Refugee Protection and Externalisation Policies', organised by the University of Gothenburg was held on 23 September 2020. The lecture was given by **Dr Matthew Scott** (Raoul Wallenberg Institute) with comments by **Carl Söderbergh** (Minority Rights Group International) and chaired by **Professor Gregor Noll**. Taking the ruling from the UN Human Rights Committee in January 2020 that people who flee the effects of climate change and disasters should not be returned to their country of origin if essential human rights would be at risk on return, this lecture addressed a series of questions:

- Will the recognition of climate-related motives for flight be met by another round of externalisation policies?
- Or will the intensifying debate on the climate emergency challenge their legitimacy?

The event was held on line and recorded.

Following on from the event, Matthew Scott and Carl Söderbergh wrote an article for the CONREP blog, entitled: 'How does border externalization relate to the climate emergency?'

Perceptions and Narratives of Refugees – The Media and Beyond, 4 May 2022, The University of Melbourne, Australia (Online Event)

This Public Forum examined perceptions in Europe and Australia of refugee issues and the responses from the EU and national governments to challenges relating to refugee protection. It brought together a panel of leading journalists, and specialists on refugee policy from Europe and Australia, including people from a refugee background: **Ben Doherty**, international affairs correspondent for *The Guardian*; **Dr Sara Creta**, photojournalist and documentary filmmaker; **Dr Alagie Jinkang**, Research Fellow at the Department of Psychology, the University of Bologna; **Mostafa Azimitabar**, Kurdish musician, artist with a refugee background; and **Professor Pierluigi Musarò**, Professor of Sociology, Culture and Communication at the Department of Sociology and Business Law, University of Bologna. The Public Forum focused on how politicians talk about, and how the media reports on, externalisation policies and in particular, how those policies are justified by these narratives and perceptions. The Forum was chaired by Director of CONREP, **Professor Philomena Murray**, with the **Rev Professor Russell Goulbourne**, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, The University of Melbourne, providing an introduction to the event.

The forum was recorded and is available on the [CONREP YouTube Channel](#).

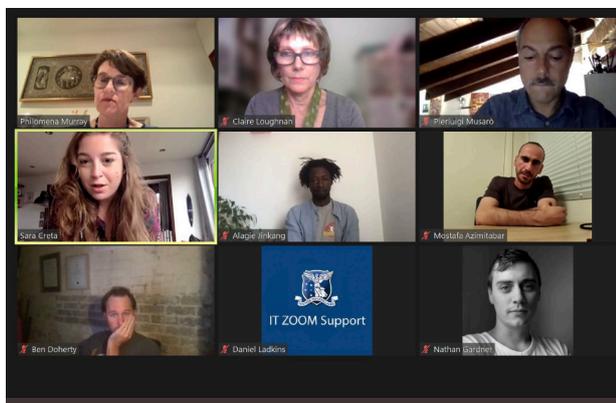


Photo: Galley view of participants at 'Perceptions and narratives of refugees – the media and beyond' Public Forum

Final Event: Showcasing CONREP, 29 June 2022 (online event)

With the Jean Monnet Network grant coming to an end in August 2022, this event marked the final public event of CONREP. It provided an opportunity to bring together the Network's researchers from the seven partner universities (The University of Melbourne; Deakin University; Monash University; Western Sydney University; the University of Bologna; the University of Geneva and the University of Gothenburg) to present the work that they have undertaken during the period of the grant, to present the many outputs that CONREP researchers have produced; and to illustrate how CONREP partners will continue their collaboration in the coming years.

At this event, CONREP officially awarded the CONREP prizes to the winners of the CONREP Prizes for the best publications and creative works. Prize winners were provided with the opportunity to present on their winning publication/creative work.

The event was recorded and is available on [CONREP's YouTube Channel](#).

MASTERCLASS

CONREP held a series of Masterclasses, designed as career enhancement instruments and training for future scholars with a research interest in the impact of externalisation policies on refugee protection and migration governance. The Masterclasses were open to Masters and PhD students, early career academics, and civil society actors.

The Masterclasses had five main learning outcomes:

1. To expose emerging academics, students and civil society actors to the latest research being conducted by academics and policy experts on the externalisation of refugee policies and protection and the impact this process has on governance, legitimacy, responsibility, human rights and democracy.
2. To examine the implications of externalisation for European integration. This includes the tension between EU and Member State policies, and the emergence of shared policies and instruments, including police, border and coastguards, agencies such as EASO (European Asylum Support Office) and migration partnerships with third countries. The Masterclasses will assess existing theories and consider new conceptual frameworks and methodologies for explaining the implications of externalisation for the EU.
3. To expose emerging academics, students and civil society actors to the experiences and challenges faced by refugees in the two regions.
4. To mentor future academics and policymakers to pursue future work in this field.
5. To establish and develop a research-teaching nexus on comparative approaches to refugee externalisation processes through the training of emerging academics.

Rethinking Borderlands. (In)Visible Borders in Europe and Australia, 12 June 2019, the University Of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

This Masterclass was attended by PhD students; postdoctoral researchers; academics and experts in migration law, communication and migration policies. The focus was on the impact of externalisation policies in refugee protection and migration governance, particularly the role of media and communication in shaping the symbolic and physical/territorial border, and consequences on citizenship and liberal democracy.

Professor Myria Georgiou (London School of Economics) examined how media and communications advance or restrict rights and recognition of refugees, migrants and other marginalized communities in transnational contexts, especially across urban societies. **Dr Amy Nethery** (Deakin University) explored the concept of secrecy and why it matters in Australia's offshore processing centres. **Dr Timothy Raeymaekers** (Zürich University) focussed on the North African Emergency and its aftermath, which involved the intensification of migrant flows through the so-called Central Mediterranean route, highlighting how it has radically altered the configuration of Italy's and Europe's asylum system. **Professor Pierluigi Musarò** (University of Bologna) chaired the discussion, stressing the importance of problematizing the theoretical framework, the methodology to analyse the topic, as well as the ethics of conducting the research-collaboration.

A networking reception followed the conclusion of the Masterclass.

Travel funding assistance was provided to four students from within Europe and a one PhD student from the University of Melbourne was awarded a Top up Traveling Scholarship to participate at this event. The recipient of the CONREP Top-up Traveling Scholarship, Rashaam Chowdhury, wrote a [blog piece](#) reflecting on her experience at these workshops.



Photo: Masterclass at the University of Bologna

Researching Refugee Externalisation: Approaches and Challenges, 17 February 2020, the University of Melbourne, Australia

The Melbourne Masterclass was a half-day event that was co-convened by **Professor Philomena Murray** and **Tamara Tubakovic**. It was attended by PhD students, early career scholars, and academics in refugee policy and law.

The first session of the Masterclass commenced with a panel of scholars, **Professor Penelope Mathew** (University of Auckland), **Professor Pierluigi Musarò** (University of Bologna), **Associate Professor Marco Borraccetti** (University of Bologna) and **Dr Claire Loughnan** (University of Melbourne), who considered the challenges of researching refugee externalisation policies. The panel of scholars was chaired by Professor Philomena Murray. The panelists discussed their approaches to their research and, importantly, the challenges of conducting research in a sensitive area.

The second session of the Masterclass provided an opportunity for PhDs and early career scholars to present on their own research projects, and to be provided with feedback by discussants and their peers. Participants had been required to submit a short paper in advance, and were provided with the opportunity to exchange ideas, having read each other's papers, during this session. Feedback on research, future challenges and publishing was also provided by the academic panelist who participated in the event.

CONREP provided travel assistance for all participants to attend the Masterclass as well as CONREP's international workshop on 'Refugee Externalisation Policies: Responsibility Sharing or Responsibility Shedding?' that took place on 18-19 February 2020 at Deakin University.

Further information on the Masterclass is available on the [CONREP website](#).



Photo: Participants at the Melbourne Masterclass

Policy and Policy Change/Consistency in Asylum Governance, 8 October 2020, in collaboration with The Melbourne Social Equity Institute (MSEI), the University of Melbourne, Australia (online event)

CONREP Research Partners **Tamara Tubakovic** and **Kelly Soderstrom** from the University of Melbourne convened a workshop for doctoral students enrolled in the Melbourne Social Equity Institute (MSEI) Interdisciplinary PhD Program on Refugees, Statelessness, and Forced Migration, at the University of Melbourne. Eight doctoral candidates from a diverse range of disciplinary backgrounds attended the event.

During the masterclass, Tamara and Kelly provided an introduction to asylum policy for non-policy researchers. They introduced new institutionalist approaches and methodologies for studying asylum policymaking and discussed their application for translating research to governance. The masterclass focused specifically on answering the questions "what is asylum policy?" and "what causes policies to change or stay consistent?" By answering these questions, the masterclass provided participants with a foundation for understanding asylum policy research. Participants were given the opportunity to explore strategies for turning their own doctoral research into policy proposals.

GUEST LECTURES

The Guest Lecture series provided an opportunity for members from each of the partner universities to deliver a guest lecture at another partner university. These guest lectures were delivered as part of established teaching programs at the partner universities (undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programs) or as an extracurricular event, open to other stakeholders such as civil society, refugee, advocates, media and students from other universities.

Year 1 Guest Lectures

Australia's Extraterritorial Immigration Policies: A path to Avoid for Europe

The Monash University academic, Dr Azadeh Dastyari gave a guest lecture on 13 March 2019 at the University of Bologna (Forli) to students in the 2nd cycle degree programme in Criminology. The lecture provided a history of Australian immigration law and policy from European colonisation to today. The lecture was followed by a discussion of lessons that can be learnt from Australia's experience in Europe.

European borderscapes. The management of migration between care and control

Professor Pierluigi Musarò delivered a guest lecture on 16 April 2019 at Monash University to undergraduate students enrolled in International Refugee Law and Practice as part of Bachelor of Law, a subject taught by Associate Professor Maria O'Sullivan. The lecture examined EU migration policy and assumptions about borders.

The lecture provided information on EU migration policy (such as the Schengen agreements; Fortress Europe; the Dublin Convention and Frontex) and questioned assumptions about the place of borders. The main legislative acts regulating the asylum seekers and refugees sector in Italy were also presented. The analysis of the mediatized border was very thought-provoking as the audience was asked to consider how refugee 'crises' are presented in the media and why borders are such central ideas in migration policy. They were also asked to consider a world without borders: Would that be possible? What would it look like?

The guest lecture received positive feedback from the students.



Photo: Pierluigi Musarò's guest lecture at Monash University

Year 2 Guest Lectures

The Cat and Mouse Game of Refugee Policy Externalisation: Between Law and Politics'

Professor Sandra Lavenex delivered a one-hour guest lecture for students enrolled in Asylum Challenges in Australia and Asia, a second-year elective subject in the Politics and Policy Studies major at Deakin University. The lecture was delivered on 7 September 2020 (online due to COVID-19 restrictions).

Professor Lavenex's lecture, outlined her new research on the four stages of refugee externalisation policy. The lecture was preceded with a discussion between Professor Lavenex and Dr Amy Nethery about CONREP, their international collaborations and early research findings.

Feedback from students was excellent. Students valued the opportunity to hear from Professor Lavenex on her cutting-edge research on a topic directly relevant to their studies. Students rated the guest lecture as one of the highlights of this subject.

Australia and Refugee Policy Externalisation

Dr Amy Nethery delivered a one-hour guest lecture to students enrolled in the 2021 Master Seminar "Global Migration Governance" on 15 November 2021 (online due to COVID-19 restrictions). The seminar is an elective course for different Masters in Political Science, European Integration, African Studies, and Standardization at the University of Geneva.

Dr Nethery retraced the emergence of refugee externalisation policies by Australia and examined their evolution from the late 1990s until today. The lecture was preceded by a discussion with Professor Sandra Lavenex on the topic of refugee policy externalisation and complemented by an ex-post discussion comparing the European and Australian approaches to externalization and discussing them in their global context and in relation to international refugee norms.

The guest lecture was very much appreciated by the students and the discussion in class following the guest lecture was very animated. The ability to hear an analysis of Australian policies through the words of a distinguished expert made a lasting difference for student's assimilation and understanding of the phenomenon. The guest lecture was unanimously identified as one of the highlights of the class in the final evaluation.

Year 3 Guest Lectures

Why Solidarity in the field of asylum and refugee protection cannot work in the European Union

On Monday 30 August 2021 Professor Gregor Noll gave his guest lecture to students enrolled in the 3rd year undergraduate Political Science subject *European Integration: the Politics of the EU* at the University of Melbourne. The subject is part of the University's Bachelor of Arts degree and was taught by Dr Margherita Matera. An invitation to attend the guest lecture was extended to all CONREP members. Due to COVID restrictions which prevented face-to-face teaching and travel, the lecture was conducted via Zoom.

Professor Noll commenced the lecture by outlining the sources of solidarity within the EU and then explored the mismatch between our expectation, the expectation of the EU and the outside world with the reality of migration and asylum policy. Finally, Professor Noll examined the politics of the language of solidarity, looking specifically at what it means politically to use the language of solidarity and whether it is a useful concept in the field of asylum and refugee protection.

Student had the opportunity at the end of the lecture to ask questions of Professor Noll. Students provided feedback that they found the lecture engaging and highly informative.

Perspectives on Australia's refugee externalisation policies: comparisons, advocacy and scholarship

Professor Philomena Murray started the 2021 annual gathering of the Gothenburg-Lund-Uppsala Migration Law Research Network (GLUMIN) with a keynote lecture. The audience consisted mainly of GLUMIN researchers ranging from doctoral to professorial level. Professor Murray explored linkages between Australian and European approaches to border control and asylum and addressed the challenges faced by scholars and civil society in seeking to change policy and the approaches of policy makers and to provide support for people seeking asylum and protection. She also touched upon her own personal experience as a scholar, as a comparativist and as an advocate for refugees and founder of Academics for Refugees.

Her talk and the ensuing discussion were recorded and made available on [CONREP's YouTube Channel](#).

CONREP SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Throughout the grant, CONREP ran a series of events and workshops. Some of these events and workshops were held in conjunction with external partners. As a result of the impact of COVID-19, most of these events were held on-line and many events were recorded.

“‘Aware Migrants’”: The Role of Information Campaigns in the Management of Migration’, 12 February 2020, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Professor Pierluigi Musarò (University of Bologna) presented a seminar at the Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre as part of the MMIC Seminar Series. The presentation explored how information campaigns to deter potential migrants and refugees from leaving their countries depict them in very specific ways, operating as ‘new bordering practices’ in conjunction with extraterritorial border policies. Pierluigi examined these issues through the example of a specific information campaign – Aware Migrants (2016) – funded by the Italian Government and managed by International Organization for Migration to dissuade potential newcomers from attempting the journey across the Mediterranean Sea.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

COVID-19, Libera Circolazione a Tutela dei Migranti (Covid-19, Free Movement and Protection of Migrants), 26 October 2020, the University of Bologna, Italy (online event) – in Italian

This seminar focused on the management of EU borders during COVID-19 Pandemics. It focused on the impact of national measures on human rights and on EU fundamental freedoms; it also focused on the impact on vulnerable persons at the external borders of the EU. The seminar was given by Associate Professor Stefano Montaldo (University of Turin).

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

From Ethiopia to the University of Bologna: The University Corridors for Student Refugees Fighting Against Border Closures, 28 October 2020, the University of Bologna, Italy (online event) – in Italian

This event was chaired by Professor Pierluigi Musarò and the speakers were: Professor Marco Castrignanò (Direttore Dipartimento di Sociologia e Diritto dell’Economia), Professor Alessandra Scagliarini (Prorettrice per le relazioni internazionali, Università di Bologna), Associate Professor Stefania Varani (docente UNIBO, Coordinatrice del progetto UNIBO “University corridors for refugees”) Andrea Pecoraro (UNHCR Italia), Patrizia Mondin (Direttrice Azienda regionale per il diritto agli studi superiori (ER.GO) della Regione Emilia-Romagna), Matteo Scagliarini (membro delle Famiglie accoglienti, Caritas di Bologna), Yohannes Sisay Molla (studente rifugiato vincitore del programma UniCore) and Siid Negash (Presidente Next Generation Italy).

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Protezione Internazionale e Procedure di Frontiera (International Protections and Procedures At Frontiers), 2 November 2020, the University of Bologna, Italy (Online Event) – in Italian

In this seminar, Professor Emanuela Pistoia (University of Teramo) focused on the European system of international protection. In particular it focused on the border procedure, comparing the existing system with the new model according to the proposal of regulation on the asylum and migration mechanism. The aim of the seminar was to understand and identify possible violation of human and fundamental rights for asylum seekers, people in need of protection and vulnerable persons. The event was chaired by Associate Professor Marco Borraccetti.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Made In Italy: TCNS, Caporalato, Organized Crime and Agromafia, 10 November 2020, the University of Bologna, Italy (online event) – in Italian

The compression of time and space has enabled a significant number of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) to make an often difficult decision: to leave their countries. Yet the economies of developed countries have benefited from this ‘low-skilled’ labor migration. At a European level, no country is able to maintain its level of consumption without the ‘low-skilled’ labor of the underdeveloped world’. This seminar explored the condition of agricultural workers in Campobello di Mazara (Trapani, Puglia, Italy), where the tension between excessive consumption by European citizens and the Caporalato, organized crime and the mafia have manifested. This case study, explored the conditions of agricultural workers in Campobello di Mazara, provided an analysis of the many ways in which the dynamics of neoliberal globalization have taken place. The seminar introduced the concept and practice of the Caporalato system in Italy; it applied the concept to the micro case study of agricultural workers in the Trapani area; and it provided in-depth interviews with low-skilled workers to identify the contemporary slavery conditions in which they live. The seminar concluded by proposing a paradigm shift to mitigate the suffering of agricultural workers in Italy, within a broader European perspective.

The speaker was **Dr Alagie Jinkang** (Research Associate at the IUC, Torino). The event was chaired by **Professor Pierluigi Musarò**

Further information is available at on the [CONREP website](#).

The Politics of Crisis-Making: Neither for Rights, Nor for Needs, 11 November 2020, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Throughout modern history, the politics of crisis-making that subtends volatile contexts has inhibited the capacity to produce effective changes in matters of migration and borders. It has also made us believe that forced migrations inevitably imply a “crisis”, while the story is far more complicated.

Dr Estella Carpi (University College London) focused on key themes covered in her book in *Specchi Scomodì. Etnografia delle Migrazioni Forzate nel Libano Contemporaneo* (Mimesis, 2019), and further explored in a new book manuscript ‘The Politics of Crisis- Making, Forced Displacement and Cultures of Assistance in Lebanon’. Taking Lebanon as a leading example, Estella demonstrated how a western-centric understanding of humanitarianism prevents us from capturing how the lives of different refugee groups are enmeshed in contexts where humanitarian and welfare regimes overlap; and how refugees understand themselves in response to crisis management. She particularly focused on the politicisation of aid, the ‘ethnicisation’ of needs and services, and the socio-moral distances between aid providers and recipients in different Lebanese areas.

The event was chaired by **Professor Pierluigi Musarò**

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Innovations in Activism in the Digital Era: Campaigning for Refugee Rights, 12 November 2020, the University of Bologna, Italy (online event)

New digital technologies offer citizens, interest groups, and political parties innovative ways to communicate, mobilise, and organise. The internet has heralded many innovations in collective action, from online petitions to viral memes and Twitterstorms. Common forms of digital advocacy organisation have spread worldwide from the US to the UK, from Poland to New Zealand. This seminar, **Dr Nina Hall** (John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Europe) explored how the digital area is changing forms of power and advocacy.

The event was chaired by **Professor Pierluigi Musarò**

A copy of the recording is available on the [CONREP YouTube Channel](#).



Photo: Speaker Nina Hall

Global Compact on Migration, 14 November 2020, the University of Geneva, Switzerland (online event)

On 13-14 November 2020, the University of Geneva held an Expert Forum entitled: *The Two UN Compacts -Refugees and Migrants: challenges and implementation in Europe*. This two-day expert forum discussed the advances and limits made in the implementation of the UN Compacts on Refugees and Migrants since their formal adoption in December 2018, with a focus on Europe. The first day was an evening panel of high-level experts featuring Professor Elspeth Guild (Queen Mary University London) as Chair, and as speakers Dr Madeline Garlick (Chief of Section, Protection Policy and Legal Advice UNHCR), Catherine Wollard (Director of the European Council of Refugee and Exiles) and Alexander Sorel (Senior Advisor to the Executive Director European Asylum Support Office). The contributions focused on contemporary issues faced in the Mediterranean region with regard to access to territorial asylum in particular in light of the commitments of EU states to the two UN Compacts.

The second day was a morning panel on the 'Global Compact on Migration', its legal nature, and its added value to existing international norms covering migrants, in particular migrant workers. The event was co-hosted by the H2020 research project (Queen Mary University, London) and CONREP (University of Geneva). It was chaired by **Professor Sandra Lavenex** (University of Geneva and CONREP), speakers were: **Professor Jens Vedsted-Hansen** (University of Aarhus), **Dr Ryszard Cholewinski** (ILO Beirut), **Dr Bjarney Fridriksdottir** (University of Duesto Spain) and **Professor Elspeth Guild** (Queen Mary University of London). **Dr Jean-Pierre Cassarino** (College of Europe, Natolin) acted as the discussant.

A recording of the event is available [online](#).

From Refugee to Activist: A Life Through, From and Against Externalization Policies, 18 November 2020, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

What does it mean to be a refugee? What effects externalisation policies have on people? What should we do from Europe? **Tesfai Abrahalei (Abraham)** was born on 24 May 1989 and has now the refugee status in Italy. In this seminar Abraham answered the above-mentioned questions sharing with us his story and his long trip from Eritrea, passing through the desert, in the detention centres in Libya and then arriving in the University of Bologna. He analysed the effects of externalisation policies in bodies and minds and outlined what Europe can and should do.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Trafficking in Human Beings and Victims' Protection in the Council of Europe Legal Framework, 25 November 2020, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

In this seminar, **Dr Julia Planitzer** (Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights) focused on the Warsaw Convention and on legal system for the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings. Business and THB, the Relations with the Palermo Protocol, the European system for victims' protection, Warsaw Convention and its influence on the EU legal framework.

The event was chaired by **Associate Professor Marco Borraccetti**.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Researching for Change: Empowering Affected Communities Through High Impact Research, 26 November 2020, Western Sydney University, Sydney, Australia

This seminar was held in Sahra Restaurant in Parramatta, Sydney organised by CONREP and the WSU Network for Law and Human Rights based at the School of Law at Western Sydney University. 43 people attended the event which was held over lunch. There were two speakers for the event: **Samah Shda** and **Rick Welsh**. Samah Shda is an Iraqi Assyrian refugee who arrived in Australia in 2019. At the seminar, Samah used her own experience and story to raise awareness on the global refugee crisis. Samah spoke about growing up in Baghdad and experiencing the aftermath of the 2003 war. Samah also spoke about her work as part of the refugee aid efforts during the 2014 refugee crisis caused by the Islamic State invasion in northern Iraq. Samah has been directly involved with refugee resettlement organisations and refugee-led national advocacy networks representing the Iraqi community. The other speaker for the event was **Rick Welsh** who is a Gomerioi/Murrawarri man from north-western NSW. Rick has spent a lot of his life living on the traditional land of the Eora Nation. Rick spoke about his work as the manager of The Shed, a Western Sydney Community based project that implements early intervention across legal sectors: family law, crime, childcare and protection and housing. Rick spoke about the importance of research as a way of protecting the human rights of the vulnerable and highlighted issues that may prove to be useful research topics for PhD students and research staff. The event was a success and the organisers received very positive feedback from the audience.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Politics and Poetics of Expressing the Encounter with the other in Migration, 2 December 2020, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (online event)

This seminar considered the subjects in migration – migrants who move – and their relations with the Other – the unfamiliar, strange, different encountered in the process of movement. **Professor Sergei Shubin** (Swansea University) tried to go beyond the limits of the self and traditional self-centred visions of the world drawing on the examples of the forced migration after the 2011 Fukushima disaster. The discussion brought the migrant subject (the "I") into question and considered the non-subject of loss and trauma emerging in the disaster, the nothing often haunting international migrants.

Drawing on the work of Hoda Afshar, **Dr Claire Loughnan** (University of Melbourne) showed how 'photography as a civil contract,' in Azoulay's words, might invite an encounter with the other on their terms, and overcome the violence that accompanies such reductive categories.

The event was chaired by **Professor Pierluigi Musarò**.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Interdisciplinary Research: Melding Methodologies Theories and Research Identities in Migration Studies, 23 February 2021 (in Collaboration with the Migration, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism Group, Research Centre for Refugees, Migration and Humanities Studies, Australian Catholic University) – (online event)

This instalment in the NextGenMEM Conversations About... series brought together six speakers to discuss their experiences working at the intersections of multiple fields of inquiry. The event was produced in collaboration with **The Research Centre for Refugees, Migration, and Humanitarian Studies** and CONREP. **Professor Joy Damousi**, **Associate Professor Finex Ndhlovu**, and **Dr Agnes Szabo**, shared insightful comments about their challenges when conducting interdisciplinary migration research. We were also fortunate to hear from three PhD candidates who candidly shared specific difficulties they are facing while navigating the interdisciplinarity of their thesis topics. **Hao Zheng** discussed conceptual complexities, whereas **Carl Anacin** talked about practical challenges, and **Marina Khan** spoke about the difficulties in managing and presenting multiple and new forms of migration data. The virtual event was attended by 57 people.

A recording of the event is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Dalla Nigeria All'italia: Albinismo e Migrazioni ('From Nigeria to Italy: Albinism and Migration'), 12 March 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy - in Italian

In this seminar **Joy Ehikioya** told us her story in which she used the pseudonym of Azzurra. Her story is one of violence, of ancestral superstitions, and more of violence. It is also a story of involuntary emigration, something close to deportation. Finally, it is the story of the reacquisition of one's real name: claimed, reclaimed.

Her story begins with: "I am Azzurra, a 19-year-old African Nigerian born on the twentieth day of November 1997 after a heavy unleashing of anger by the rain on earth, and I want to say that I am a survivor of albinism. Most people would say "victim of albinism" but I prefer to say "survivor of albinism", because that "survivor of" makes my story much lighter and more comfortable to tell."

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Resistance, Asylum and the Medical Border, 27 May 2021, the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia (online event)

Dr Claire Loughnan (University of Melbourne) and **Dr Sara Dehm** (University of Technology Sydney) convened the Resistance, Asylum and the Medical Border workshop. This workshop brought together a panel of prominent refugee advocates, health experts and lawyers to discuss critical issues in the provision and denial of healthcare to refugees who continue to be subject to Australia's offshore detention and temporary visa regime. Speakers included: **Moz Azimi** (former refugee), **Dr Barri Phatarfod** (Doctors for Refugees), **Saba Vasefi** (award winning writer and documentary film-maker) and **Anna Talbot** (lawyer with National Justice Project).

A copy of the recording is available on the [CONREP website](#).

The Effects of Refugee Policy Externalisation on Target Countries and International Institutions: Diluting or Diffusing International Norms?, 2 June 2021 (in collaboration with the Migration Policy Centre, the European University Institute) (online event)

Professor Sandra Lavenex chaired the CONREP/European University Institute Roundtable. This event explored the effects of refugee policy externalisation on target third countries and international institutions. It also considered how externalisation policies trigger the indirect diffusion of refugee protection norms to institutions and policies hitherto not connected to the international refugee regime such as in the fields of international security; development or environmental cooperation. Speakers included **Dr Tamirace Fakhoury** (University of Copenhagen), **Dr Federica Infantino** (European University Institute), and **Dr Madeline Garlick** who is Chief of the Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section in UNHCR's Division of International Protection.

A recording of this event is available online.

Who is telling the Story? 'Refugee' Narratives: Voice Image Words, 10 August 2021, the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia (online event)

This online panel brought together four speakers to explore the ways in which the voices of those seeking refuge are often unheard or otherwise manipulated in ways that diminish their personhood. Chaired by **Dr Claire Loughnan** (The University of Melbourne), attendees heard from four distinguished speakers who shared their diverse reflections and concerns about the distance between refugees and non-refugees in these narratives and their intended audiences. The panel consisted of author and scholar **Behrouz Boochani**, filmmaker **Arash Sarvestani**, **Dr Jordy Silverstein** from the University of Melbourne, and **Dr Anna Szorenyi** from the University of Adelaide. The event was a public 'by-invitation' event and was attended by approximately 45 people.

The event was recorded and a copy of the recording is available on [CONREP's YouTube Channel](#).

A detailed report of the event is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Australia's Legal Obligation to Protect Afghan Interpreters, 31 August 2021, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia (online event)

Dr Maria O'Sullivan (Monash University) chaired an online panel discussion entitled 'Australia's Legal Obligation to Protect Afghan Interpreters'. The event initially intended to examine Australia's moral and legal obligation to protect workers who have helped Australian troops. However, given recent developments in Afghanistan, the panel discussion ultimately took a broader focus, analysing both the current situation in Afghanistan (and how it came to be), as well as Australia's moral and legal obligation to assist Afghan citizens more generally.

The event commenced with presentations from three distinguished speakers, **Professor William Maley** (Australian National University), **Sitarah Mohammadi** (Deputy Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network), and Evan Jones (Coordinator of the Asia Displacement Solutions Program) before concluding with a moderated question and answer session with the panellists.

This panel discussion garnered significant public interest given the emerging and alarming situation in Afghanistan. The event was well-attended with over 380 registered attendees and an engaged audience who submitted a number of questions to panellists.

A recording of the event is available [online](#).

Parole, Dolore, Potere: Eterogeneità Dei Linguaggi Nel Lavoro Psicoterapeutico Con Persone Sopravvissute a Violenza e a Tortura, 11 October 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy – in Italian

Many migrants are subjected to mistreatment and torture during the journey to Europe. This this seminar **Dr Lilian Pizzi**, an Italian clinical psychologist and psychotherapist who has developed and coordinated mental health projects for various international organizations, addressed issues with migration, health and violence, specifically in Libya and the Mediterranean Sea.

Batman Goes to Congo. How Celebrities Disrupt the Politics of Development, 13 October 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Dr Alexandra Cosima Budabin (Free University of Bolzano/ University of Dayton Human Rights Center) and **Professor Lisa Ann Richey** (Copenhagen Business School) addressed: Can a celebrity be a “disrupter,” promoting strategic partnerships to foster ideas and funding to revitalize the development field— or are they just charismatic ambassadors for big business? Examining the role of the rich and famous in development and humanitarianism, this seminar argued that celebrities do both, and that understanding why and how yields insight into the realities of neoliberal development.

Pianificazione Come Espropriazione: Razza, Classe e Casa Nella Città Post-Socialista, 26 October 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (in person and online event) – in Italian

This work investigates the history of a set of blocks located in Alea Livezilor, in the southern district of Ferentari in Bucharest, Romania. An object of great interest on the part of academics, journalists and directors, the risk is characterized by the paradigms of drug use, poverty and destitution of the Roma population who live there. In this seminar **Professor Michele Lancio** (Polytechnic of Turin) offered a transversal reading of this space, examining the socialist project of the ‘block’ to grasp how the racial and class segmentations have been diagrammed with continuity at each historical turning point.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Migration Governance: Policies to Govern Migration Across Levels of Government, 27 October 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (in person and online)

The seminar provided a rapid overview of the tools to understand global migration and how it interplays with territorial policies for sustainable development. Primarily directed at students, **Professor Anna Piccinni** (Public governance Directorate, OECD, and Sciences Po Paris) introduced the key drivers and policy responses to migration at global, national and sub-national levels of government and society. After an introduction on economic and forced migration (causes, migrants' profiles and flows' foresight), the seminar provided an overview of the determinants of migration policies - admission, resettlement, permanence and right to work- as well as the notion of circular migration.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

When Crisis Never Ends: Humanitarianism at the Spanish–Moroccan Border, 4 November 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (in person and online)

In the past three decades, the tightening of borders in the Global North has produced an increase of violence against migrants along migratory routes. This has determined the appearance of humanitarian missions in border areas. This seminar took the Moroccan Northern border as a case study to question the relation between humanitarian work and border violence in the governance of migrant life. **Dr Lorena Gazzott** (Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge) argued that the everyday violence of the border shapes and challenges humanitarian purpose: humanitarian missions become constantly necessary, constantly redundant, allowed to stay at the condition of not exposing the violence triggering the emergency in the first place.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Documentary on Libya Conditions, 10 November 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (in person and online)

Thousands of refugees are trapped in Libya's hellish detention centres, where abuse, rape and extortion are rampant. They live in subhuman conditions, awaiting someone – the militia, Europe, the UN, anyone – to decide their fate. Officially, Libya's 26 detention centres are run by the GNA, the UN-recognised government in Tripoli. In reality, they are in the hands of the militias that control the country, who see migrants as a ready source of cash. The European Union finances the camps but then takes no responsibility for what happens there.

The documentary 'LIBYA: NO ESCAPE FROM HELL' investigates the entire detention system, how this trafficking works, the role of the militias and the way in which their control is exercised. It asks the questions: What needs to be changed and what are the solutions? Why is there such a lack of transparency when it comes to the UN's activities in Tripoli?

Diritti Umani Al Confined Empowerment Femminile: Quale Ruolo Per L'unione Europea, 15 November 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (in person and online) – in italian

In this seminar, **Alessandra Moretti** (Italian politician, Member of the European Parliament in the group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats for Partito Democratico) explored the European Union's foreign policies on migration. She discussed how foreign policy is a key issue for the EU. She argued that only if the EU 27 member states are willing to speak with a common voice in this area will it be possible to achieve results in the field of human rights, migration, and in the EU's economic and geopolitical positioning in the world.

Further information is on the [CONREP website](#).



Photo: (from left to right) Elena Giacomelli and Alessandra Moretti

Mediterraneo e Sconfinamenti. Open Arms, Tra Operazione Umanitaria e Politica, 15 November 2021, the University of Bologna (in person and online) – in Italian

Immigration by sea and the complex phenomenon generated by this type of movement has increased hand in hand with the closure of the borders of European states and with the desire to manage the issuance of visas in a particularly restrictive manner to poor countries.

We have witnessed a stiffening by European governments of community migration policies and the externalisation of borders. These measures are seen as the only responses to a complex and structural phenomenon. Agreements with illiberal countries in which violations of rights are documented by international organizations, are seen as the only solution to stop departures.

In this context Open Arms has been operating since 2016, saving the lives of more than 62,000 people. In this seminar **Veronica Alfonsi** (Communication Department - Open Arms Italia) discussed how NGOs remain the only form of assistance and monitoring in the Mediterranean Sea and how they have become witnesses to a humanitarian tragedy which must be dealt with, in a systematic and constructive manner.

This event was chaired by **Professor Pierluigi Musarò**

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Il Grande Muro: Come La Frontiera Europea Si È Spostata in Africa, 22 November 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (in person and online) – in Italian

From the 2015 refugee crisis to today, Italy has strengthened cooperation with African countries, of origin and transit of migrants, to reduce arrivals by sea. Interventions and funding from Italy and Europe, which have altered diplomatic relations, risk violating human rights, strengthening authoritarian regimes and triggering conflicts. In this seminar **Giacomo Zandonini** (Independent Journalist) argued that these huge and controversial investments, must be monitored.

This event was chaired by **Professor Pierluigi Musarò**.

Further information is on the [CONREP website](#).

Participation and Resistance Through Arts and Culture, 15 December 2021, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Through different perspectives and disciplines, this seminar explored how media, arts and culture can address transcultural dialogues, foster counter-hegemonic recognition and offer critical reflections on diversity, identity and belonging. The seminar aimed at explaining how different forms of artistic, mediatic and cultural production can sustain or confront innovative paths for resistance and participation in an increasing diverse society. This means not only to challenge structural hegemonic discourses that de-humanize those who do not have the right to speak, but also to build unconventional forms of participation in the public sphere and open new places of mutual recognition. The speakers adopted this framework as a roadmap to explore how different cultural practices are formed through the encounters between practitioners, and being enabled or constrained by direct actions, social relations and discourses. The aim was to show how cultural processes and practices can generate alternative imaginaries, foment forms of decoloniality, and opening new possibilities of collective resistance.

This event consisted of a panel of speakers: **Professor Nicholas Mirzoeff** (New York University); **Professor Nikos Papastergiadis** (University of Melbourne); **Associate Professor Paolo Magaudda** (University of Padua); **Dr Melissa Moralli** (University of Bologna); **Professor Pierluigi Musarò** (University of Bologna); **Professor Roberta Paltrinieri** (University of Bologna); **Professor Paola Parmiggiani** (University of Bologna); **Associate Professor Ilenya Camozzi** (University of Milano-Bicocca); **Associate Professor Annalisa Frisina** (University of Padua); **Pietro Florida** (Lille University); **Cantieri Meticci** (Lille University); and **Professor Emilie Da Lage** (Lille University).

The event also included a live drawing performance **Sara Pour** and **Cantieri Meticci**.

Further information in on the [CONREP website](#).

Immaginari Sociali - Social Imaginaries, 9 March 2022, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (in person and online)

Through different perspectives and complementary keys, the seminar explored the relationship between mobility, borders, externalization and the social imaginary. How can we approach the Other and the Elsewhere by nurturing an imaginary that does not give in to fear and the impulse of exclusion? With what tools and actions can we push society toward openness and hospitality, working on our perceptions, our ability to listen to diverse others and enter into relationship with them? The speakers were **Sabika Shah Povia** (Blogger and freelance journalist), **Giorgio de Finis** (Anthropologist, artist and independent curator) and **Professor Nicola (Nick) Mai** (Professor of Criminology, University of Leicester). The event was introduced by **Professor Pierluigi Musarò**.

The seminar was followed by the documentary “Travel” of Nick Mai.

A recording of the event is available [online](#).

Further information is also available on the [CONREP website](#).



Photo: (from left to right) Nick Mai, Sabika Shah Povia, Pierluigi Musarò and Giorgio de Finis on the screen

Hardening Borders in Pandemic Times, 16 March 2022, the University of Melbourne (online event)

Despite initial claims that COVID-19 was a social leveller, to which everyone was vulnerable, the pandemic has instead exposed significant societal fault lines and introduced a new set of bordering practices by states that have disproportionately affected refugees. These bordering practices have included harsh border closures across the globe, with health concerns often used as a justification for exclusion and the marginalisation of those most in need of protection. It has enabled governments to pursue pushback measures with greater regularity and brutality. We have seen greater moves towards securitisation, with references being made to war and the pandemic as the invisible enemy. Within this discursive context, refugees have been framed as carriers of the virus and a threat to public health and internal security. These trends represent a worrying erosion of commitments made by liberal democratic states to international refugee protection laws and corresponding norms.

This public event brought together a panel of refugee policy experts and scholars from Europe and Australia to discuss these new bordering practices in the context of Europe and Australia: **Dr Sara Dehm** (University of Technology Sydney), **Dr Umut Ozguc** (Deakin University), **Dr Francesca Esposito** (Lecturer at Westminster University of London and an Associate Director at Border Criminologies, University of Oxford) and **Epaminondas Farmakis** (HumanRights360).

The panel examined the implications of these new practices for those seeking refugee protection, and the corrosive effect they have had on the international protection regime. The event provided an opportunity to discuss how the pandemic has curtailed the space for alternative humanitarian approaches to refugees, and the wider implications of these national bordering practices for the international refugee protection regime.

This public event formed part of the project, ‘Blurred borders, pandemics, and the politics of belonging’ funded by the University of Melbourne. The event was sponsored by CONREP as the three lead chief investigators are member of the CONREP team: **Dr Margherita Matera** (The University of Melbourne), **Dr Claire Loughnan** (The University of Melbourne) and **Dr Tamara Tubakovic** (University of Warwick).

A recording of the event is available from the [CONREP YouTube Channel](#).

Cura e Corpi Politici (Care and Political Bodies), 23 March 2022, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy – in Italian

The seminar explored the plurality of approaches, tools, and transformative looks that can question and propose new imaginaries about the body and relationships, about the possible crossings and effects of the border. We mean here the body as a narrative space of resistance and struggle against privilege. But it is also as a space of relationship, re-signification and mutual care. A care that becomes shared, “promiscuous,” capable of stimulating new collective claims. The panel of speakers consisted of Joy Ehikioya, Professor Rachele Borghi and Dr Sara Farris. The event was introduced by Dr Melissa Moralli (University of Bologna).

A recording of the event is available [online](#).

Further information is also available on the [CONREP website](#).



Photo: (from left to right) Melissa Moralli, Joy Ehikioya, Sara Farris and Rachele Borghi

The Global Spread of Safe Country Policies: Political Science and Legal Perspective, 23 March 2022, the University of Geneva, Switzerland and the University of Gothenburg, Sweden (online event)

At the centre of this webinar stood the presentation of a new dataset compiled by Frowin Rausis from the University of Lucerne on the adoption of safe country policies worldwide and the interpretation of this global spread from a legal perspective by Associate Professor Daniel Ghezlbash (Macquarie University) and Professor Gregor Noll (Gotheborg University). The Safe Country Policies Dataset (SACOP) maps the adoption and characteristics of four types of Safe Country Policies in 195 states from 1951 until 2021. Next to the safe country of origin rule, the dataset distinguishes three types of policies allowing for the transfer of an asylum seeker to another “safe” country depending on the existence and intensity of links between the asylum seeker and the country. Interestingly, Frowin Rausis showed how these policies have diffused beyond the Global North to countries of the Global South, whereby what is written in the law is not always congruent with the political practice on the ground.

Reflecting on these developments, Daniel Ghezlbash underlined the progressive weakening of the link between an asylum seeker and the country determined as responsible in these policies. Drawing on the notion of hyper-legalism, he explained how, while formally abiding to the law, states create complex legal constructs that allow these to evade existing commitments under national and international law. In addition, he explained how these processes of refugee policy externalisation gradually reduce the level and quality of protection accorded to refugees. The inequalities and power relations in the diffusion of safe country policies were at the centre of Gregor Noll’s comments. Taking a global and systemic perspective, he echoed the argument of lowering standards and compared the emerging division of labour to one between centre and periphery akin to colonial systems. In sum, the speakers agreed that more research is needed to disclose the mechanisms behind the diffusion of safe country policies and to study more closely what happens to the notion of protection once such policies proliferate.

A recording of the seminar is available on the [CONREP YouTube Channel](#).

S/Confinamenti - De/Bordering, 20 April 2022, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (in person and online) – in Italian

The seminar explored the plurality of approaches, tools, and transformative perspectives that can question and propose new ways of making and unmaking borders. De/bordering leads us to reflect on the fluctuating and changing boundaries, delving into the study of borders and mobility in all its manifestations: social, symbolic, spatial, imaginary, ritual. Speakers were **Dr Alagie Jinkang** (University of Bologna), **Professor Nando Sigona** (University of Birmingham), **Dr Federica Mazzara** (University of Westminster), and **Dr Lorenzo Pezzani** (Centre for Research Architecture). The event was introduced by **Dr Elena Giacomelli** (University of Bologna).

A recording of the event is available [online](#).

Further information is also available on the [CONREP website](#).

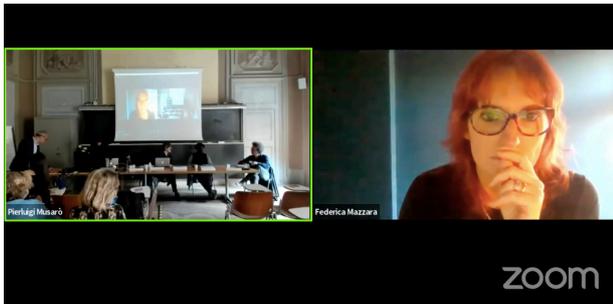


Photo: Panelists at the S/confinamenti – de/bordering seminar

Thinking Forward on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, 27 April 2022, the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and the University of Geneva, Switzerland (online event)

This workshop examined the future scenario of refugee externalisation under the *EU Pact on Migration and Asylum*. It examined how this Pact would impact or fundamentally change the existing institutional and legal framework in the EU if it was fully implemented. Would the Greek islands be the new model for asylum processing? What would the implications and consequences be for third countries of transit in North Africa and beyond? What kind of protection architecture would we get and what loss of rights protection would the EU incur?

Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik (Université de Genève) presented on ‘The Use of Trade Agreements for Migration Control’; **Lukasz Dzedzic** (Universiteit van Amsterdam) presented on ‘Solidarity and the Pact’; **Josephine Liebl** (ECRE) presented on ‘The Pact and EU Borders’ and **Professor Florian Trauner** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) presented on ‘EU Return Sponsorships – High Stakes, Low Gains?’. **Professor Rosemary Byrne** (NYU Abu Dhabi) acted as the commentator.

The event was co-convened by **Professor Gregor Noll** and **Professor Sandra Lavenex**.

Further information is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Resistance, Migration and the Medical Border Workshop, 28 April 2022, the University of Melbourne, Australia (online event)

An academic, half day workshop was convened by **Dr Claire Loughnan** (University of Melbourne) and Dr Sara Dehm (University of Technology Sydney) addressing the theme: ‘Resistance, Migration and the Medical Border’.

This academic workshop extended the focus of the public seminar on the same theme, convened in May 2021. It sought to address the ways in which the violence of state border regimes is enacted through the withdrawal of medical care, as well as through coercive medical interventions. In the Australian context, for example, the current Migration Act and Regulations (Reg. 5.35) empowers the Minister for Immigration and the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs to authorise non-consensual medical treatment on people incarcerated in immigration detention where they deem it to be a “serious risk to a detainee’s health” and they can use “reasonable force” to enable treatment to be effected (Minister v Gek Bouy Mok (1992)). Importantly, the failure to provide care as well as such coercive interventions, have also come to characterise the externalisation of refugee protection. Despite this, many seeking refuge also resist the border through the refusal of medical treatment, as well as through self-harm and hunger strikes.

The workshop provided an opportunity for invited scholars to present new and emerging research in this field, addressing themes such as vulnerability, medical interventions, resistance and refusal, quarantine, the militarised dimensions of medical control at the border, the impact of the pandemic upon ‘non-citizens’, access to medical care, and the racialized dimensions of the ‘medical border’. The discussion was wide ranging, with participants presenting their research from Australia, New Zealand and the UK, drawing from case studies in Australia, Italy, Greece and New Zealand.

Presenters in attendance included: **Juliette McHardy** (Georgetown University), **Claudia McHardy** (Oxford University), **Richard Vogt**, **Dr Anthea Vogl** (University of Technology Sydney), **Dr Ryan Essex** (University of Greenwich), **Associate Professor Maria Giannacopoulos** (University of New South Wales), **Associate Professor Marinella Marmo** (Flinders University), **Dr Jess Hambly** (Australian National University), **Dr Andrew Burrridge** (Macquarie University), **Dr Umut Ozguc** (Deakin University). The workshop forged new and stronger research relationships among participants. Although the event was not recorded – in order to maximise opportunities for frank and open discussion – the organisers plan to develop a journal Special Issue proposal, arising out of the workshop.

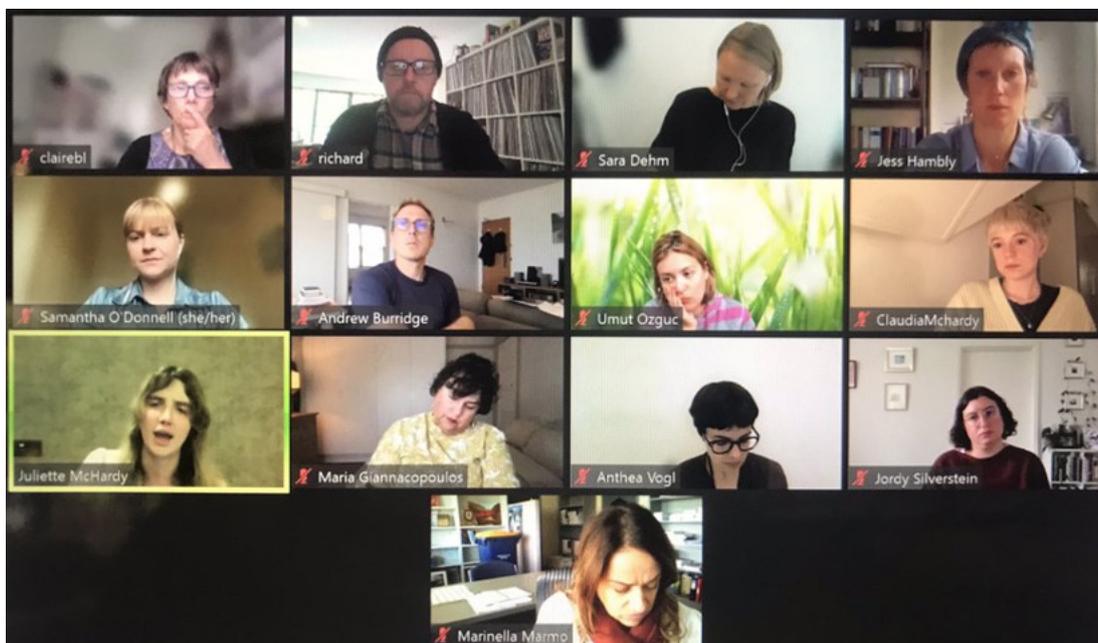


Photo: Gallery view of participants at Resistance, Migration and the Medical Border' Workshop

Identità – Identities, 11 May 2022, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (in person and online event)

The seminar sought to question the multiplicity of practices, policies and rhetorics that everyday represent and construct identity (individual or collective) as something static and eternal, to be preserved from those contaminations and connections that actually give it reason to exist. Through different approaches and languages, we want to decolonize the boundaries-physical and symbolic-that are erected to delimit and exclude the other and propose new words, perspectives, and ways to recognize ourselves as plural. Speakers were **Anthony Chima**, Associate Professor **Gaia Giuliani**, **Dr Mackda Ghebremariam Tesfaù** and **Dr Federico Faloppa**. The event was introduced by Dr Valentina Cappi.

A recording of the event is available [online](#).

Further information is also available on the [CONREP website](#).

Externalisation Through Privatisation: the Role of Non-State Actors in Border Enforcement and Asylum Exclusion, 15 June 2022 (in collaboration with the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute, and the (B)Orders Centre at Queen Mary University) (online event)

The event was organised and chaired by **Dr Tamara Tubakovic** (CONREP partner, The University of Warwick) and featured a panel of distinguished experts from across several disciplinary fields. With the growing movement of asylum seekers and refugees to wealthy Global North countries, states have progressively hardened their migration control strategies. States now employ a number of measures beyond their territorial borders to obstruct or deter the arrival of unwanted migrants and shirk their protection obligations. States have externalised migration control by shifting the locus of border enforcement to third countries, while also contracting out border control duties to private actors. The aim of the event was to advance our understanding of how, when, and why States privatise migration control, how we might conceptualise the role of private actors, the nature of their relationship with the State, and the degree of autonomy that they have in the enforcement of borders, revealing the often violent and coercive dynamics that underpin these practices. By bringing together scholars working across law, politics, and ethics, this workshop offers a unique multidisciplinary perspective on the privatisation of migration control. **Professor Violata Moreno-Lax** discussed the effects of hidden coercion and imperfect delegation, drawing on the example of carrier sanctions. **Dr Federica Infantino** examined the role of private companies in shaping responses to migration in Europe. **Dr Martin Lemberg-Pedersen** provided a detailed account of the actors and lobbyism involved in EU markets for border control. **Dr Amy Nethery** revealed the nature of privatisation and secrecy in Australia's offshore processing facilities. The event had approximately 44 attendees on the day, and the video has received over 240 views on the youtube video.

A recording of the event is available [online](#).



Photo: Panellists from the Externalisation Through Privatisation seminar

Mappature – Mappings, 21 June 2022, the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

The seminar investigated mapping as an action capable of bringing out, through images, narratives and experiences, the complexity of geographical, political, social and relational territoriality involving multiple ecologies, spatialities and temporalities. But also mapping as an action of decolonization, denunciation and collective claim. The speakers were **Abraham Tesfai**, **Wu Ming 2**, and Associate Professor **Federico Rahola**. The event was introduced by **Chiara Davino** and **Lorenza Villani**.

A recording of the event is available [online](#).

Further information is also available on the [CONREP website](#).



Photo: Speakers at the Mappature -Mappings seminar (from left to right) Chiara Davino, Lorenza Villani, Vanessa Guidi, Abraham Tesfai and Federico Rahola

PHD AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER EVENTS

CONREP held a series of seminars aimed specifically at PhD students and Early Career Researchers (ECR) to receive crucial mentorship and skill-enhancement from experts working across academia, civil society and the policy sectors. These seminars offered advice and information on: career advancement both in academic and non-academic contexts; publishing; enhancing dissemination of research; ethical research and tackling contentious issues related to researching refugee externalisation; and how to engage with key stakeholders. They offered an important forum for PhDs and ECRs to network and build relationships with fellow junior and senior researchers, civil society and policy-makers. As the majority of these events were held online, they provided an opportunity to expand and involve PhDs and early career academics from non-CONREP institutions, particularly from the Global South to enhance engagement with PhD and early career researchers from a refugee background.

Refugee and Migration Policy: How to Partner with and Influence Policymakers, 26 May 2021 (in collaboration with The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) Migration, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (MEM) Thematic Group; and with support from the University of South Australia) (online event)

Within the contemporary research landscape there is increased emphasis on research demonstrating industry relevance or societal application. Moving beyond personal interests or human curiosity – research is increasingly expected to help address real world problems or contribute to work being done by industries that might sit outside of traditional academia. Research degree students are encouraged to partner with end-users of their research to help address globally significant issues and demonstrate future career relevance. Many early-career researchers are also seeing their future employment not in academia, but within industry; either through think-tanks, not-for-profit agencies, or government. In working towards this relationship in a meaningful way, how do we navigate the role of migration, ethnicity, and multiculturalism research with industry? How can we support the role of research to advocate for societal change appropriately? Within this session we will hear from researchers, industry partners, and postgraduate students who have worked within this space, navigated these relationships, and applied their research meaningfully in order to help address many global and societal issues today. This session focused on helping provide practical tips and advice for PhD/HDR candidates and early career researchers on how they can meaningfully engage with industry at various stages of their research journey. The panel of speakers consisted of **Goshu Tefera** (PhD candidate at Monash University, **Annabel Brown** (Program Director at the Centre for Policy Development) and **Dr David Radford** (Senior Lecturer (Sociology) and Research Degree Coordinator, UniSA Justice and Society).

This seminar was held as a collaboration with CONREP, The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) Migration, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (MEM) Thematic Group; with support from the University of South Australia.

A recording of the event is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Grant Writing Strategies: Insight from CONREP, 3 June 2021, the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia (online event)

Grant writing is a crucial component of research and academia. Research grants provide financial support for seed funding, research projects often involving travel and conference participation, and publication. Grants are therefore an essential source of funding supporting innovative research, facilitating networking opportunities, and enhancing professional development. Drawing on their extensive experiences with previous grants and CONREP, **Professor Philomena Murray** and **Dr Margherita Matera** provided information on identifying funding opportunities and strategies for grant writing. The event was chaired by **Kelly Soderstrom**. This seminar was oriented towards PhD and Early Career Researchers.

Further information and a copy of the recording are available on the [CONREP website](#).



Photo: Grant Workshop Panel speakers

Post-PhD Careers in Academia and Beyond, 17 August 2021, (in collaboration with the Melbourne Social Equity Institute), the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia (online event)

The impacts of COVID-19, recent changes to Australian government policy, and systemic casualisation of academia have further increased uncertainty for PhD students and Early Career Academics. This seminar discussed various opportunities for PhDs and ECAs to leverage their unique skillset to pursue fulfilling careers after thesis submission. CONREP and the Melbourne Social Equity Institute (MSEI) co-hosted a diverse panel of experts including **Warren Frehse** (Senior Advisor, Careers and Employability, University of Melbourne), **Professor Julie Mcleod** (Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne), **Kate Taylor** (Director, Research Strategy, University of Melbourne), **Madeline Gleeson** (Senior Research Fellow, Kaldor Centre, UNSW), and **Dr Louise Olliff** (Senior Policy Advisor, Refugee Council of Australia) who discussed a variety of post-PhD career pathways in academia and beyond. Approximately 30 PhD students attended.

A report of the event is available on the [CONREP website](#).

Career in Research and Beyond, 3 September 2021, Western Sydney University, Sydney, Australia (online event)

During this seminar, speaker addressed topics on personal branding and research, networking and applying for research jobs. **Yvonne Kelly** (Glow Up Careers) discussed how early career researchers can best market themselves and promote their research. The seminar began with a discussion of each participant's research and the reasons why they may want to develop a stronger public profile. Yvonne Kelly then discussed the promotion of research through social media with a particular emphasis on how LinkedIn could be used to enhance one's profile. Researchers were then assisted through developing (or in some cases strengthening) a LinkedIn profile. The session then went on to discuss the importance of networking for early career researchers and provided strategies on how researchers could develop more connections. This was followed by a talk from **Mina Rassam** and **William Madani** on engagement with industry and how to appeal to parties (particularly law firms) outside of academia. The event was attended online by 15 Early Career Researchers.

MEETING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

These meetings were designed to foster two-way dialogue among members of CONREP and key civil society actors. They helped to strengthen engagement across sectors, thus consolidating the research- policy nexus of the project. The meetings helped to inform CONREP's research as well as contribute to the advocacy and research goals of civil society.

Three meetings were convened with civil society actors during the period of the grant. These meetings were by invitation only and included civil society actors from Europe, Australia and the Asia Pacific region:

- **13 June 2019, Prato, Italy:** Representative from civil society: **Gianni Rufini** (Director General, Amnesty International, Italy), **Michael Flynn** (Global Detention Project), **Reem Mussa** (Médecins Sans Frontières) met with the CONREP Network team to discuss their work and how CONREP could contribute to raising awareness of civil society concerns. A number of issues were discussed during the meeting to help shape the work of CONREP. These included: the normalisation in western states of 'being tough on migrants'; negative narratives around migration and ways in which a more positive narrative can be built; the restrictive definition of what constitutes a refugee under the Refugee Convention and ways that this term needs to be broadened; the role that civil society can play, especially at the local level, to improve the lives of refugees and to change narrative around refugees.



Photo: Participants at the civil society meeting in Prato (13 June 2019)

- **18 February 2020, Deakin University, Melbourne Australia:**

Representatives of leading NGOs in Australia, including the Australian representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Refugee Legal, the Refugee Council of Australia and Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, attended the meeting with CONREP partners.

The meeting was held as a dialogue in order to establish synergies and identify any needs in civil society that the CONREP team could fulfil. The discussions centred on identifying the most urgent challenges faced by refugees due to the externalisation of refugee protection and the challenges for civil society. These included medical treatment of those in externalised environments. The group also discussed which avenues have been the most effective in gaining some traction in improving refugee rights in offshore processing. Here, the group identified media coverage, political lobbying, litigation and parliamentary submissions as being useful tools. In particular, the participants identified the need to use mechanisms other than refugee law or human rights law in challenging government actions. For instance, by using duty of care principles to challenge externalisation policies. In terms of conclusions, some participants identified the need for academics to engage in political and media advocacy on externalisation, in addition to carrying out research.

A blog piece reflecting on this forum was written by Kelly Soderstrom and Maria O'Sullivan – 'How can academics help? Conclusions from the collaborative meeting with researchers and civil society leaders' and published on the CONREP Blog.

- **14 September 2022 (online event):** The event gathered CONREP partners and representatives of several NGOs and Not For Profits. These were: **Paul Power** (Refugee Council of Australia); **Josephine Liebl** (Head of Advocacy, European Council on Refugees and Exiles); **Reem Mussa** (Humanitarian Affairs Advisor, Forced Migration, Médecins Sans Frontières); **Sr Brigid Arthur** (Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project); **Epaminondas Farmakis** (HumanRights 360); and **Violeta Moreno-Lax** (Global Legal Action Network). **Annabel Brown** moderated the session that was aimed at providing an opportunity for exchange between scholars and those organisations active in the field of asylum and refugee protection within the Australian and European context. The roundtable participants provided a range of views from grassroots activism and support, to high level political and legal engagements. The mutually beneficial relationship between research and practice was emphasised throughout the dialogue and both roundtable participants and CONREP partners in attendance expressed a keen interest to collaborate in the future.

POLICYMAKERS ROUNDTABLE

The purpose of CONREP's interaction with policymakers in Australia, the EU and its member states was to contribute to the development of refugee policy in each of these jurisdictions. Designed to inform policymakers of the impacts of the policies and propose alternative policies based in research which better respect the rights of refugees, the opportunity to engage with policymakers provided a forum for policymakers to feature in CONREP's research and for them to share their expertise and perspectives.

CONREP held an online Policymaker Roundtable on 22 September 2021. Determined efforts to secure policymakers representing the EU and Australian governments resulted in four high-profile participants: **Marion Finke** (Asylum Unit, DG Home, European Commission); **Adam Bandt** (Australian Federal MP and Leader of the Greens); **Peter Khalil** (Australian Federal MP, Labor); and **Tineke Strik** (Dutch Greens and European Free Alliance, European Parliament).

The roundtable was open only to CONREP partners and held under the Chatham House Rule in order to facilitate free and open discussion. A key objective of this meeting was to explore and identify tangible ways in which CONREP and policymakers can collaborate to overcome obstacles and design a better policy agenda. Participants found the session very fruitful and indicated a desire to maintain communication channels in the future.

MONITORING OF CONREP ACTIVITIES

NETWORK PARTNER MEETINGS

Network Partner Meetings met regularly throughout the grant. These meetings provided an important forum for network partners to discuss the project, its activities and advances in comparative approaches to research in this area. These meetings helped to consolidate relationships among the partners and provided an important forum for mentoring the early career members of the network. The meetings focussed on project planning and the assessment of completed deliverables.

Two in-person meetings were held in Year 1 (in Prato in June 2019) and Year 2 (in Melbourne in 2020) of the grant. The second meeting was a hybrid meeting, with network partners unable to attend in-person joining the meeting via Zoom. COVID-19 rendered it impossible for network partners to meet in person during the final years of the grant. As network partners were located in Europe and Australia, the majority of the meetings were held online during the grant.

Table 2: CONREP Network Partner Meetings

Date	In person/virtual meeting
25 September 2018	Initial in-person kick-off event (Melbourne-based partners, with a subsequent report to European partners)
4 April 2019	In-person (Melbourne-based partners and visiting partner from Europe, with a subsequent report to other European partners)
13 June 2019	In-person (Prato)
26 October 2019	Virtual
17 February 2020	In-person and hybrid (Melbourne-based partners and visiting partners from Europe and zoom attendance by two European partners)
20 July 2020	Virtual
14 April 2021	Virtual
26 October 2021	Virtual
21 March 2022	Virtual
26 July 2022	Virtual



Photo: Network Partner meeting at The University of Melbourne (4 April 2019)



Photo: Network Partner dinner following the Network meeting in Prato (13 June 2019)



Photo: Second face to face network meeting in Melbourne (17 February 2020)

STEERING COMMITTEE

The CONREP Steering Committee played an important role in monitoring and supporting the activities of CONREP. Consisting of six highly-esteemed academics, policy actors and civil society actors (see Table 3 below for the membership list), the Steering Committee was charged specifically with the tasks of advising CONREP on how best to meet its goals, of providing guidance and carrying out oversight throughout the course of the project.

The Steering Committee met four times throughout the grant. In addition to the members of the Steering Committee, a representative from each of the seven partner institutions also attended the Steering Committee meetings.

Table 3: Steering Committee Members

Name	Affiliation	Membership Duration
Ms Annabel Brown	Centre for Policy Development	2019 - 2022
Dr Jeff Crisp	Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford	2019 - 2022
Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill	Kaldor Centre, University of New South Wales	2019 - 2022
Ms Josephine Liebl	European Council on Refugees and Exiles	2021 - 2022
Ms Pia Oberroi	Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights	2019 - 2022
Mr Paul Power	Refugee Council of Australia	2019 - 2022
Ms Elly Schlein	European Parliament	2019 - 2020

FUNDING AND PRIZES

TOP-UP SCHOLARSHIPS

In Year 1, one PhD student from the University of Melbourne was awarded a Top-Up Travelling Scholarship to participate in the Masterclass at the University of Bologna and the International Workshop at Monash University's Prato campus. As a condition of the award, the recipient, Rashaam Chowdhury wrote a [blog piece](#) reflecting on her experience at these workshops:

- Rashaam Chowdhury, '[Refugee externalisation policies: Some reflections from the first CONREP Workshop 2019](#)', 23 August 2019.

In Year 2, three PhD students were awarded Top-Up Travelling Scholarships to participate in the International Workshop and Masterclass in Melbourne. The winners were:

- Nicola Bergamaschi (University of Bologna)
- Shani Bartuvia (University of Geneva and Hebrew University)
- Wenwe He (University of Bologna)

Due to a number of unforeseen developments, Shani Bartuvia was unable to take up the Scholarship and attend the workshops in Melbourne.

Both Nicola and Wenwen contributed blog pieces following their participation in the workshops:

- Wenwen He, '[The Role of Multimedia Public Art in Challenging Refugee Dehumanisation and Externalisation](#)', 17 June 2020.
- Nicola Bergamaschi, '[What Impact Does the EU's Recent Approach towards Externalisation and Readmission Have on the EU's Institutional Order?](#)', 17 June 2020.

CONREP PRIZES

As part of its initiative to build enhanced dialogue and outreach in the field of refugee externalisation, CONREP established four prizes: the CONREP Publication Support Prize for Refugees; the CONREP Creative and Innovative Work Prize; and two categories of the CONREP Best Journal Article or Book Chapter (Global South and Global North). Submissions were judged on quality; impact; originality; and alignment with CONREP's core interest of refugee externalisation. Judges received some impressive submissions and against the above criteria chose to award prizes in three of the categories (publication support, creative work, and best journal article Global North). No submissions were received for the category of Best Journal Article or Book Chapter (Global South).

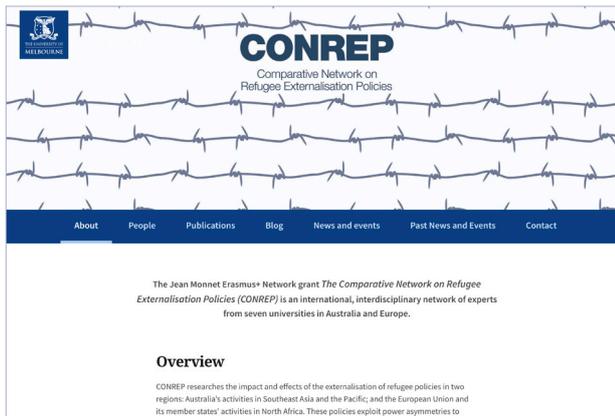
- Publication Support Prize for Refugees - Khulud Alhamazani for her submission, 'Does Your Father Know?: The Flight and Plight of Saudi Women Refugees'.
- Best Article or Book Chapter Prize (Global North) - Dr. Sally Clark won the for her submission, 'Seeking Asylum: Factors Driving Irregular Migration from Indonesia to Australia during the Fifth Wave, 2008-2013'. The article was published in *Refugee Survey Quarterly* (Sally Clark, 2019, '[Seeking Asylum: Factors Driving Irregular Migration from Indonesia to Australia during the Fifth Wave, 2008-2013](#)', *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, Vol. 38, pp. 83-113).
- Best Creative or Innovative Work for his submission - Elia Bedoni for his submission, 'Mediterraneo'. Elia's work can be found [here](#).

The prize winners presented on their work at the final CONREP event (Showcasing CONREP), which was recorded and is available on CONREP's YouTube Channel.

DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

WEBSITE

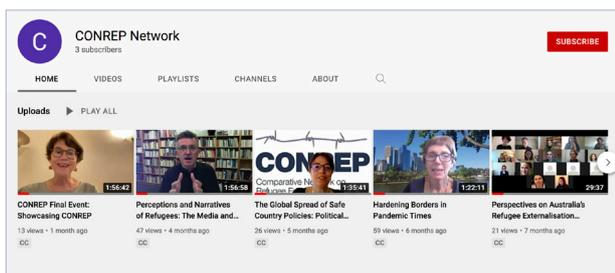
CONREP established a dedicated website, housed on the University of Melbourne website, in order to communicate CONREP activities: <https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/school-of-social-and-political-sciences/our-research/comparative-network-on-refugee-externalisation-policies>



The website has dedicated pages on publication outputs, news and events. The website also houses the CONREP Network Blog (see below for further information).

The website has provided an important medium through which the CONREP Network has broadened the reach of the project to as wide an audience as possible. It has been an important reference point for anyone interested in the externalisation of asylum and refugee policies by Australia, the EU and its member states. It constitutes a useful resource for researchers, policy-makers, civil society, the media and the general public on information relating to the refugees externalisation policies within the EU, in the UK and in Australia.

CONREP also has its own YouTube Channel which it has used to house the many recordings from its events. In combination with the CONREP website, this YouTube Channel provided an additional medium through which to distribute the work of CONREP and broaden the reach of the CONREP Network to a wide audience base.



SOCIAL MEDIA

CONREP has a dedicated social media profile on Facebook (@CONREP.EU) and on Twitter (@CONREP_EU).



In addition, CONREP members have utilised their personal twitter accounts to advertise the work of CONREP to a broad audience.

CONREP has a following of several hundred people, including experts on refugee policy; refugees; advocates and representatives of the legal system and members of the public.

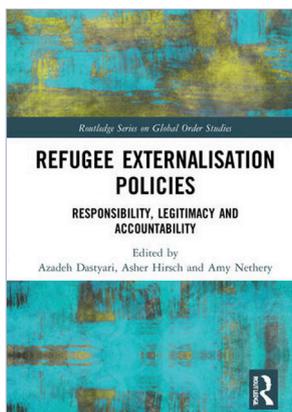
CONREP PUBLICATIONS

The CONREP publications make an important contribution to our knowledge of how externalisation policies pose significant challenges for people seeking refuge. They provide a much-needed in-depth analysis of the challenges that externalisation policies pose to human rights and refugee protection within Australia and the European Union and its member states. The development of policies that adopt a securitised approach to refugees, where migration is framed as a dangerous situation and a threat, place the protection of refugees into question. These publications fill a gap in knowledge about the impact of externalisation policies on EU integration values, and about the legal and political effects of these policies on regional governance and institutional settings. They also provide an important comparative perspective of how states and regional organisation in different regions have adopted externalisation policies and the impact they have had on those actors global standing and on people seeking asylum.

They are of relevance for scholars, students, policymakers, civil society, media and the wider community, and comprise important resources for the teaching of the Network Partners and for other academics teaching within this field.

Edited Book

Azadeh Dastyari, Amy Nethery and Asher Hirsch (eds.), 2023. *Refugee Externalisation Policies: Responsibility, Legitimacy and Accountability*, Routledge.



This book examines the impact and effects of refugee externalisation Policies in two regions: Australia's border control practices in Southeast Asia and the Pacific and the activities of the European Union and its member states in North Africa.

The book assesses the underlying motivations, processes, policy frameworks and human rights violations of refugee externalisation practices. Case studies illuminate the funding, institutional partnerships, geopolitical impacts, financial costs and the human price of refugee externalisation. It provides the first truly comparative analysis of asylum externalisation and explores maritime interdiction, extraterritorial

process, containment and third-country interception, and communication campaigns in Southeast Asia and the Middle East/North Africa.

This book will be of key interest to scholars and students of refugee and asylum studies, law, politics and the arts, legal practitioners, non-governmental organisations and policymakers grappling with the issues of detention, refugee externalisation practices and the growing need to find safety for the world's most vulnerable.

List of all the contributors and their chapters:

- Chapter 1: Examining refugee externalisation policies: a comparative study of Europe and Australia (Amy Nethery, Azadeh Dastyari and Asher Hirsch)
- Chapter 2: The cat and mouse game of refugee externalisation policies: between law and politics (Sandra Lavenex)
- Chapter 3: The externalisation of refugee policies: the politics of distancing (Philomena Murray)
- Chapter 4: Australia's boat push-back policy: hyper-legalism and obfuscation in action (Daniel Ghezelbash)
- Chapter 5: Interdiction in the Mediterranean Sea: From Unilateral to Multilateral Cooperation (Maria-Louiza Deftou, Dimitra Papageorgiou and Efthymios Papastavridis)
- Chapter 6: Active neglect and the externalisation of responsibility for refugee protection (Claire Loughnan)
- Chapter 7: Beyond Europe's borders: containment and deterrence across the Mediterranean Sea (Çetta Mainwaring)
- Chapter 8: Floodgate politics: Europe's externalisation policies and Turkey's response (Sibel Karadağ)
- Chapter 9: Externalised immobilisation strategies: from detaining to containing refugees in Indonesia (Antje Missbach)
- Chapter 10: Communicating externalisation and resistance awareness campaigns to deter migrants: a neoliberal industry for symbolic bordering (Valentina Cappi and Pierluigi Musarò)
- Chapter 11: #LetThemStay: evaluating communications factors that contributed to asylum policy reform in Australia (Nikki Sullings)
- Chapter 12: Refugee externalisation policies: what we have learnt and where are we going? (Amy Nethery and Azadeh Dastyari)

Further information on the publication, including how to purchase the book, can be found on the [Routledge website](#).

Special Journal Issues

Amy Nethery, Margherita Matera and Claire Loughnan (eds.), Special Issue of *Globalizations*: ‘Responsibility Sharing or Responsibility Shedding?’

Amy Nethery, Margherita Matera and Claire Loughnan are the editors of the Special Issue for CONREP, with the Q1 journal *Globalizations*. This Special Issue incorporates a comparison of Australia and Europe’s refugee externalisation policies, and the way these policies manifest on the ground in North Africa and Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The Special Issue addresses the externalisation of refugee policies from the perspectives of politics, law, human rights, and democratic legitimacy, as well as upon their human impact.

This Special Issue was developed during a two-day international workshop entitled ‘Responsibility Sharing or Responsibility Shedding? Refugee Externalisation Policies in Europe and Australia’. It provides an interdisciplinary and comparative examination of the externalisation policies and practices of the European Union (EU) and Australia. The EU and Australia have two of the most energetic externalisation regimes, and their policies extend, respectively, into North Africa and Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The articles in this SI analyse the development, expansion, and diffusion of the EU and Australia’s externalisation policies and practices. Drawing together the work of leading scholars and early career researchers, this SI sharpens our understanding of way externalisation has been used to erode national, regional and international obligations and responsibility to protect refugees, leading to the diminishing power of the refugee protection regime, effectively putting ‘refuge beyond reach’ (FitzGerald 2019). The collection analyses the various externalisation methods deployed, their human impact, the international relations and diplomatic efforts they require, and how these are ‘legitimised’. It reveals how the EU and Australian models serve to reinforce and provide mutually justification for each other, and how these policies influence domestic politics on asylum in their respective locations.

Four of the Special Issue’s articles are already published:

- Josh Watkins (2021) ‘Forced migration management and politics of scale: how scale shapes refugee and border security policy’. Published online 13 July 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2021.1950424>
- Penelope Mathew (2021) ‘Killing asylum softly or leaving no one behind? The New York declaration and global compacts in a divided world’. Published online 16 September 2021 [Open Access]. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2021.1974207>
- Regina Jefferies (2021) ‘Bringing externalisation home: The International Civil Aviation Organization and “entry screening” in Australia’. Published online 11 November 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2021.1989152>

- Daniel Ghezelbash (2022) ‘Technology and countersurveillance: holding governments accountable for refugee externalization policies’. Published online 28 March 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2022.2051274>

Further articles are under drafting or review. It is expected that the Special Issue will be finalised by late 2022.

Sandra Lavenex and Gregor Noll (eds.), Special Issue on ‘Informality and Flexibility in Refugee Policy Externalisation’

The conjuncture of third countries’ opposition against the signature of formal readmission agreement and of legal constraints on refugee policy externalisation have propelled a trend towards greater flexibility and informality in bilateral and multilateral refugee policy. While allowing a subset of ‘willing’ states and other non-state actors to cooperate in flexible manners, this trend represents first and foremost a retreat from an ideal of international cooperation based on law and enforceable rules towards practices that eschew the portent of the law and judicial scrutiny. The contributions to this special issue examine these developments at the level of states’ bilateral, regional and multilateral refugee policies and bring together perspectives from political science/International Relations and international law. Professor Sandra Lavenex and Professor Gregor Noll the editors of this Special Issue.

It is anticipated that all articles will be received by December 2022 and the full collection will be submitted to a journal for external review in March 2023. The Editors will be submitting a Special Issue proposal to the journal *Global Policy*, in the first instance.

Confirmed contributions to the Special Issue are:

- Introduction (Sandra Lavenex, University of Geneva and Gregor Noll, University of Gothenburg)
- Safe Third Country Arrangements (Frowin Rausis, University of Luzern)
- Hyper Legalism (Daniel Ghezelbash, University of New South Wales)
- The Global Compact on Refugees and international responsibility (Gregor Noll, University of Gothenburg)
- The informalization of EU externalization policies (Sandra Lavenex, University of Geneva)
- The concerted institutionalization of soft law (Violeta Moreno-Lax, Queen Mary University London)
- Informality and flexibility in the Common European Asylum System (Lukasz Dziedzic, Universiteit Amsterdam)
- The informalization of EU return policies (Florian Trauner, Vrije Universiteit Brussels)

Policy Reports



The CONREP **Policy Reports** provide an important output for contributing to informed debate not just among, academics, policymakers and civil society actors but also the broader community, so as to better understand the plight of refugees, their experiences and the impact of externalisation policies on refugee protection. CONREP partners produced four Policy Reports, each addressing different issues pertaining to externalisation. These reports were distributed widely to key stakeholder and are available for downloading on the CONREP website.

- Amy Nethery and Asher Hirsch, 2020, 'Externalisation of Migration Control Policies: An Introduction', *CONREP Policy Report*, No. 1, April.

This first Policy Report provides definitions of refugee externalisation policies, examples of the way that they are implemented by Australia, the European Union (EU) and its member states, and some of the implications of refugee externalisation.

- Maria O'Sullivan, 2022, 'The Global Compact for Migration', *CONREP Policy Report*, No. 2, March.

This policy paper seeks to go beyond the already significant body of work analysing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and consider Australia's response to the GCM in the context of its positioning as a leading global participant in the global migration framework, and the international community more broadly. In so doing, this policy paper provides reasons for Australia to adopt an internationally cooperative approach to global migration so that it may contribute to and benefit from the significant opportunities provided by the safe, holistic, secure global migration framework that the GCM represents.

- Claire Loughnan and Philomena Murray, 2022, 'Combating Corrosive Narratives about Refugees', *CONREP Policy Report*, No. 3, July

This report calls for a fresh approach to the debates and policy about refugees and asylum seekers. It calls upon governments and the media to ensure that the way they

present policy and analysis about people seeking refugee protection is transparent, principled and accurate. It makes the case that governments, political parties and the media should refuse to engage in harmful narratives and practices. Such narratives – most often negative stereotypes - are fostered by political debates and media reporting that often fail to understand asylum. In many instances, they intentionally inflame the debates about refugee movement. They also often fail to communicate directly with people seeking refuge. There is considerable evidence that the voices of those seeking refuge are often unheard, deliberately silenced or have been manipulated in ways that diminish their personhood. When they are heard, they are, at best, mediated by others – including by those who support them - who listen and observe from a distance. In many instances refugees remain neither seen, nor heard, at all. This is not to say that the voices of refugees are always absent: rather, there is failure to listen with care in politics and the media. Yet listening to the voices of others is critical, in order to fully resist injustices enacted at the border. In contrast, their stories are distorted or even erased by media and by political debates that frame them either as vulnerable victims or as undeserving criminals. Such inaccurate depictions or even bifurcations lead to the erosion of human rights and to the legitimisation of violence.

This report also cautions against those humanitarian narratives that may, however unintentionally, homogenise the experiences of people seeking refuge, and that may mask the specificity of each person's experience. We are attentive to the danger of emotive language that reduces those seeking refuge to the figure of the 'victim'. Asylum seekers have often reflected on the harm that is done by such narratives, as we illustrate in this report: by constructing people as little more than a victim, there is a tendency to engage in pity, a position that draws on a public imaginary of the 'benevolent' state as a 'saviour'. At the same time, constructing refugees as a threat is equally harmful and produces securitised discourses that are dehumanising.

- Sara Dehm, Claire Loughnan, Samantha O'Donnell and Jordana Silverstein, 2022, 'Healthcare and the Health-Related Harms of Australia's Refugee Externalisation Policies', *CONREP Policy Report*, No. 4, July.

This policy paper examines the health-related harms of Australia's refugee externalisation policies, focusing on the harms arising from the provision or denial of healthcare to refugees and asylum seekers under Australia's extraterritorial asylum regime. This policy paper details Australia's extraterritorial asylum regime in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Nauru alongside its immigration detention regime in Australia, in order to show the health-related impacts of refugee externalisation on the health of those seeking asylum. The re-introduction of Australia's so-called "offshore" detention and processing regime in 2012 caused a "looming humanitarian emergency" and an unprecedented mental health crisis among refugees and asylum seekers in PNG and Nauru.¹ While many people have since been transferred to Australia for medical reasons or resettled in the USA, refugees who remain in PNG and Nauru as well as refugees who are now in Australia, continue to have drastically inadequate access to healthcare while enduring legal limbo, precarity and insecurity.



Commentaries

CONREP partners wrote a number of commentaries/blogs covering different aspects of externalisation. They were published in a number of different outlets, in order to gain a broader readership

- Azadeh Dastyari, 2018, 'Explainer: why is Australia adopting the global refugee compact but not the migration compact?', *The Conversation*, 11 December.
- Angeline Ferdinand, Claire Loughnan and Philomena Murray, 2020, 'Refugees and Australia's Double Standards on COVID-19', *Arena*, 16 June.
- Federico Ferri, 2018, 'Cenni sul decreto legislativo di recepimento della direttiva UE in materia di tutela consolare dei cittadini europei non rappresentati nei Paesi terzi', *Immigrazione.it*, no. 307.
- Federico Ferri, F. 2019, 'L'assassino è il maggiordomo? Primi rilievi sulle conclusioni dell'Avvocato generale nel giudizio di infrazione contro Polonia, Ungheria e Repubblica Ceca in materia di ricollocazioni', *SIDIBlog*, 20 November.
- Federico Ferri, F. 2020, 'La riforma del codice comunitario dei visti: uno strumento al servizio del processo di esternalizzazione delle frontiere?', *Immigrazione.it*, n.353, 1 February.
- Elena Giacomelli and Sarah Walker, 2021. 'The Quarantine ship as "Floating Hotspot": Racialised Border Practices in the Mediterranean Sea in the Time of COVID-19', *Routed Magazine*, 8 May.
- Asher Hirsch, 2018, 'What Does 'Regular and Orderly Migration' Mean for Refugees? The Role of IOM and the Global Compact for Migration', *Asylum Insight*, 11 December.
- Asher Hirsch, Daniel Ghezalbash and Regina Jefferies, 2019, 'We don't know how many asylum seekers are turned away at Australian airports', *The Conversation*, 19 August.
- Claire Loughnan, 2019, 'No Friend but the Mountains by Behrouz Boochani', *International State Crime Initiative*, 27 February.
- Claire Loughnan, 2019, '2019 Budget: The Verdict Part 2', *Pursuit*, 3 April.
- Claire Loughnan, 2019, 'Protection or Punishment for refugees: what are the election policies?', *Election Watch* in conjunction with *Pursuit*, 15 May.
- Claire Loughnan, 2019, 'Active Neglect: The New Tool for the 'Externalisation' of Refugee Protection', *Border Criminologies* (blog), 16 July.

- **Claire Loughnan**, 2019, 'Australia's Harsh Immigration Policy', *The Diplomat*, 1 September.
- **Claire Loughnan** and Sara Dehm, 2021, 'A COVID 'Vaccine Passport' Could Further Disadvantage Refugees and Asylum Seekers', *The Conversation*, 25 February.
- **Claire Loughnan** and Sara Dehm, 2021, 'Scores of Refugees Have Been Released from Detention: Their Future However, Remains Tenuous', *The Conversation*, 21 March.
- **Claire Loughnan**, Anthea Vogl, Caroline Fleay, **Philomena Murray** and Sara Dehm, 2020, 'Refugees Need Protection from Coronavirus Too, and Must Be Released', *The Conversation*, 24 April.
- **Claire Loughnan**, Una McIlvenna, Mitch Buzza, Meredith Hinze and Sam Taylor, 2021, 'Against Erasure', *Pursuit*, 24 November.
- **Philomena Murray**, **Claire Loughnan**, Jordana Silverstein, Louise Newman and John Tobin, 2018, 'Academics call for an end to immigration detention', *Pursuit*, 16 October.
- **Philomena Murray**, **Margherita Matera** and **Tamara Tubakovic**, 2022, 'Parallels of Cruelty to Refugees: Normalising the Unacceptable in Australia and the UK', *Asylum Insight*, May.
- **Pierluigi Musarò** and Piga, B. E. 2020, 'Turismo e Migrazione', *Scrittura Migranti Bologna*, Mucchi, pp. 262.
- **Amy Nethery**, 2019, 'Australia's Refugee Detention Regime: Offshore and Unaccountable', *Current History*. vol. 118, Issue. 809, pp. 222-228.
- **Amy Nethery**, 2019, 'Secrecy and Abuse in Australia's Immigration Detention Systems', *Asylum Insight*, October.
- **Amy Nethery**, 2021, 'Why Are Australians so Accepting of Hotel Quarantine?', *The Conversation*, 5 April.
- **Gregor Noll**, 2021, 'Vicious circle: will ageing populations lock the EU into immigrant exclusion?', *OpenDemocracy*, 26 January.
- **Jessica Schultz**, **Esra Kaytaz** and **Maria O'Sullivan**, 2021, 'The New Plan for Immigration and the risks of extending Temporary Protection Status' *Refugee Law Initiative Blog*, 12 May.
- **Kelly Soderstrom** and **Philomena Murray**, 2018, 'Germany's (not so) grand coalition may cause ripple effects on European refugee policy', *The Conversation*, 17 April.
- **Maria O'Sullivan**, 2021, 'The Dangers of Penalising Irregular Arrivals – Lessons from the Australian Model of Offshore Processing', *Refugee Law Initiative Blog*, 14 May.

- **Maria O'Sullivan**, M. 2021, 'Book review: The Wealth of Refugees: How displaced people can build economies by Alexander Betts', *Australian Book Review*, 433, 24-25.
- **Tamara Tubakovic**, 2019, 'Race Against Responsibility: Why Conflict over Migrant Disembarkation is an EU Problem', *The Globe Post*, 13 March.

CONREP Blog

The CONREP Network Blog was launched in the June 2019 and has published 48 pieces from contributors around the world. In establishing the blog, the aim was:

- To ensure CONREP's research on the impact of externalisation of refugee policies would be accessible to academics, civil society, policy makers, students and the public;
- To facilitate an informed dialogue and public debate about the challenges and implications of externalisation policies on EU integration, refugee protection and regional cooperation;
- To provide analysis on existing and new literature on migration control, asylum policies and externalisation;
- To provide an opportunity for emerging early career academics and PhD students to publish their analysis and research to a wider audience.

The CONREP blog was coordinated by four of CONREP's early career academics, Federico Ferri (University of Bologna), Elena Giacomelli (University of Bologna), Tamara Tubakovic (University of Melbourne/University of Warwick) and Kelly Soderstrom (University of Melbourne).

A list of all the CONREP Blog pieces is provided below and can be accessed via the website. In addition, a collated publication of all the published Blog pieces can be downloaded from the CONREP website.

1. **Philomena Murray**, 'The externalisation of refugee policies in Australia and Europe: The need for a comparative interdisciplinary approach', 12 June 2019.
2. **Pierluigi Musarò** and **Asher Hirsch**, 'The symbolic frontiers of border externalisation: Interceptions, information campaigns, and refugee policies', 25 June 2019.
3. **Maria Giannacopoulos** and **Claire Loughnan**, 'When closure isn't closure: Carceral expansion on Manus Island', 17 July 2019.
4. **Kelly Soderstrom**, 'Flexible Borders: The fiction of non-entry and asylum seekers in Germany', 17 July 2019.

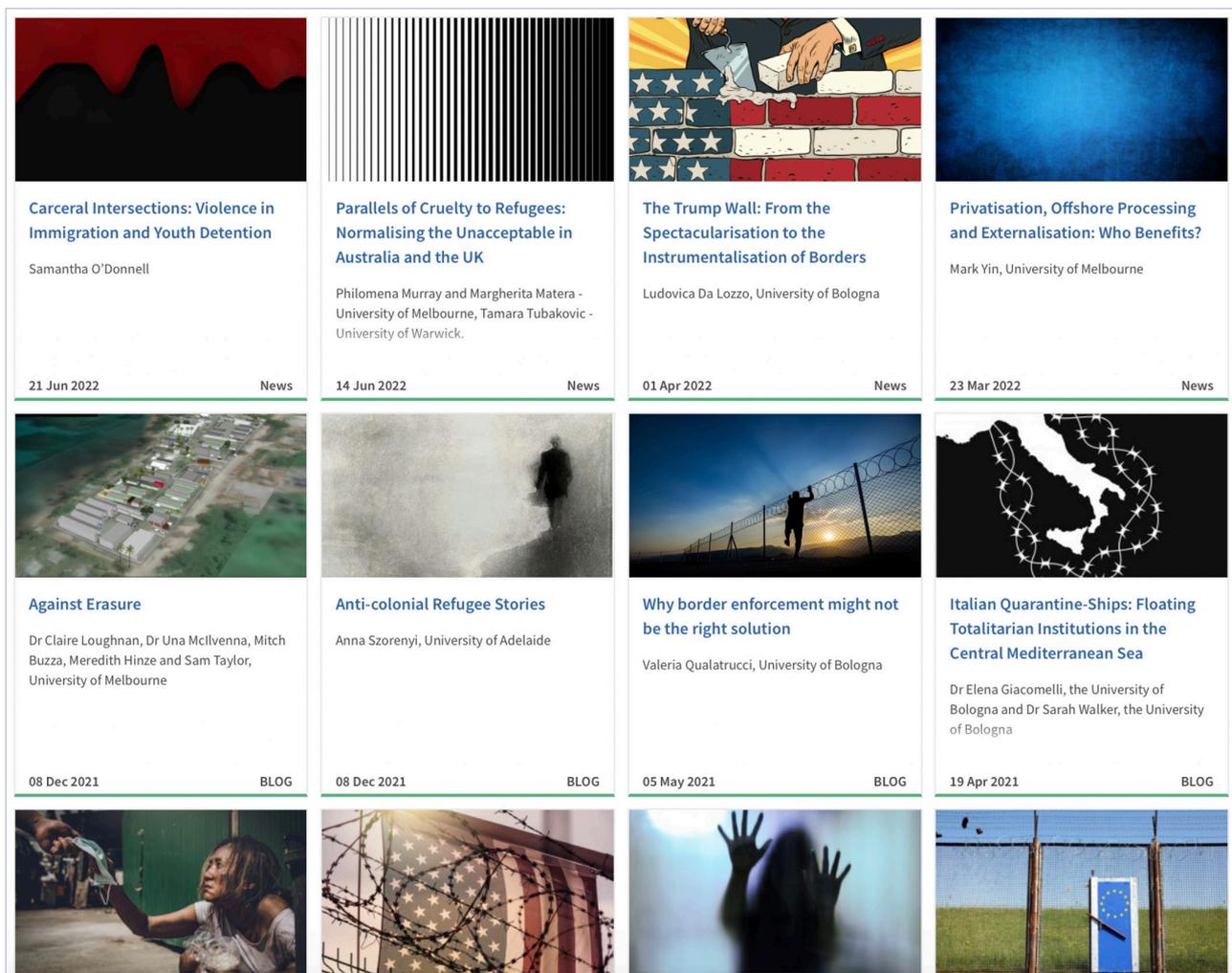
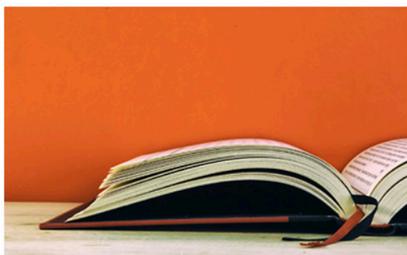


Photo: A snapshot of some of the blogs on the CONREP website

5. Antonio Marchesi, 'Italy's current externalisation policy and the role of Libya', 8 August 2019.
6. Tamara Tubakovic, 'Race Against Responsibility: Why Conflict over Migrant Disembarkation is an EU Problem', 16 August 2019.
7. Federico Ferri, 'Scorched Earth...in the middle of the sea: Italy's fight against NGOs saving lives along the Central Mediterranean Route', 19 August 2019.
8. Kelly Soderstrom, 'Responsibility, legitimacy and accountability: Reflections on the CONREP Workshop in Prato 2019', 19 August 2019
9. Chiara Scissa, 'A feeble light in the shadow: The recognised need to provide protection owing to environmental issues', 19 August 2019.
10. Azadeh Dastyari, 'Why Is Australia Adopting the Global Refugee Compact and not the Migration Compact?', 19 August 2019.
11. Asher Hirsch, Daniel Ghezlbash and Regina Jeffries, 'We don't know how many asylum seekers are turned away at Australian airports', 19 August 2019.
12. Rashaam Chowdhury, 'Refugee externalisation policies: Some reflections from the first CONREP Workshop 2019', 23 August 2019.
13. Isaac Kfir, 'Natural law and international refugee law', 8 October 2019.
14. Pierluigi Musaró, 'Information campaigns to deter migrants as new bordering practices', 15 October 2019.
15. Claire Loughnan, 'Active Neglect: The New Tool for the 'Externalisation' of Refugee Protection', 25 November 2019.
16. Amy Nethery, 'Secrecy and Abuse in Australia's Immigration Detention Systems', 25 November 2019.
17. Jeff Crisp, 'Externalization and the erosion of refugee protection', 25 November 2019.

18. **Asher Hirsch** and Cameron Doig, 'Australia's other 'offshore policy' – containing refugees in Indonesia through the International Organisation for Migration', 27 November 2019.
19. Isaac Kfir, 'How refugees went from heroes to villains and the politics of nostalgia', 7 January 2020.
20. Philippa Duell-Piening, 'The shifting borders experience by people who are refugees with disabilities', 29 April 2020.
21. Penelope Mathew, 'Replacing Asylum or Leaving No-One Behind?', 17 June 2020.
22. Wenwen He, 'The Role of Multimedia Public Art in Challenging Refugee Dehumanisation and Externalisation', 17 June 2020.
23. Nicola Bergamaschi, 'What impact does the EU's recent approach towards externalisation and readmission have on the EU's institutional order', 17 June 2020.
24. **Amy Nethery** and Joseph Lea, 'Australia's offshore processing arrangements: a form of neo-colonialism?', 17 June 2020.
25. Chiara Scissa, 'Banning humanitarian visas, supporting resettlement: The European Commission's veil of Maya', 19 June 2020.
26. **Kelly Soderstrom** and **Maria O'Sullivan**, 'How Can Academics Help? Conclusions from the Collaborative Meeting with Researchers and Civil Society Leaders', 30 June 2020.
27. Ali Reza Yunespour, 'Internal Border Controls: Australia's Domestic Policies to Deter Refugees', 22 July 2020.
28. **Maria O'Sullivan**, 'The Dangers of Offshore Processing: Questioning the Australian Model', 5 October 2020.
29. Anthea Vogl, Caroline Fleay, **Claire Loughnan**, **Philomena Murray** and Sara Dehm, 'COVID-19 and the Relentless Harms of Australia's Punitive Immigration Detention Regime', 20 October 2020.
30. **Claire Loughnan**, Anthea Vogl, Caroline Fleay, **Philomena Murray** and Sara Dehm, 'Refugees Need Protection from Coronavirus Too, and Must Be Released', 12 October 2020.
31. Angelina Ferdinand, **Claire Loughnan** and **Philomena Murray**, 'Refugees and Australia's Double Standards on Covid-19', 12 October 2020.
32. **Federico Ferri**, 'Externalisation and Human Rights in the Context of the 2020 EU Pact on Migration and Asylum: Paradigm Shift or Optical Illusion?', 28 November 2020.
33. Griselda Qosja, 'Nothing New from the Western Front: Solidarity à la Carte: The Continuation of the Dysfunctional Dublin Regulation', 23 December 2020.
34. Matthew Scott and Carl Söderbergh, 'How Does Border Externalisation Relate to the Climate Emergency?', 1 March 2021.
35. Anna Siniscalchi, 'Invisible to the Legal System: The Policies Adopted in Italy Concerning Citizenship for Children of Immigrants', 5 March 2021.
36. Giulia Azzarone, 'The EU Loop: Linking Migration to Security in the Sahel Region', 6 March 2021.
37. Lucie McAnea, 'What Future for the EU's Controversial Migration Deal with Turkey?', 6 March 2021.
38. Daniela Caracostas, 'Women at the Border: The Silent Scream of Modern Wounded Amazons', 22 March 2021.
39. Chiara Cigliano, 'Her Body, No Choice: What the Atrocities against Immigrant Women Mean for the US', 18 April 2021.
40. Anna Molon, 'The Pandemic Paradox: Covid-19 Does not Discriminate, but Externalisation Policies Do', 19 April 2021.
41. Elena Giacomelli and Sarah Walker, 'Italian Quarantine-Ships: Floating Totalitarian Institutions in the Central Mediterranean Sea', 19 April 2021.
42. Valeria Qualatrucci, 'Why Border Enforcement Might not Be the Right Solution', 5 May 2021.
43. Anna Szorenyi, 'Anti-Colonial Refugee Stories', 8 December 2021.
44. **Claire Loughnan**, Una McIlvenna, Mitch Buzza, Meredith Hinze and Sam Taylor, 'Against Erasure', 8 December 2021.
45. Mark Yin, 'Privatisation, Offshore Processing and Externalisation: Who Benefits?', 23 March 2022.
46. Ludovica Da Lozzo, 'The Trump Wall: From the Spectacularisation to the Instrumentalisation of Borders', 1 April 2022.
47. **Philomena Murray**, **Margherita Matera** and **Tamara Tubakovic**, 'Parallels of Cruelty to Refugees: Normalising the Unacceptable in Australia and the UK', 13 June 2022.
48. Samantha O'Donnell, 'Carceral Intersections: Violence in Immigration and Youth Detention', 21 June 2022.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS



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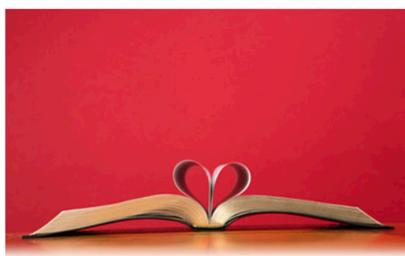
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Lists of policy reports created by CONREP and CONREP researchers



[Commentaries](#)

Commentaries by academics of the Comparative Network on Refugee Externalisation Policies

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Musarò, P. 2020, 'Errare è umano. Sul diritto alla mobilità e la meraviglia estetica', in N Papastergiadis (ed.), *Cosmopolitismo e Cultura*, Milano, Franco Angeli, pp. 7-19.

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Policy Reports

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O'Sullivan, M. 2022, *Australia's Responsibility to Protect the Human Rights of Women in Afghanistan*, Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Monash University, March.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Ferri, F. 'Matrix (R)evolutions? Controversial Aspects of the Evolving Nexus between EU Migration Policies and Security in the Framework of the EU External Action', University of Nantes, workshop "L'Union européenne et les mutations de la sécurité internationale: évolutions et articulations de la PESC, de l'ELSJ et d'autres politiques de l'Union", 12 March 2019.

Giacomelli, E. and Walker, S. 'The Quarantine Ship as 'Floating Hotspot': Racialised border practices in the Mediterranean Sea in the time of COVID-19', *Oxford Migration Conference 2021*, 10-15 May 2021.

Giacomelli, E. and Musarò, P. *Imiscoe Spring Conference, Messaging Migration and Mobility*, 22-23 March 2021.

Giacomelli, E. and Musarò, P. *Migrant Belongings Conference. Digital Practices and the everyday*, University of Utrecht, Italy *In-between narratives: reflections on multiple layers of invisibility of migration*, 20-23 April 2021.

Giacomelli, E. and Musarò, P. *8th Ethnography and Qualitative Research International Conference*, University of Trento, 9-12 June 2021.

Giacomelli, E. and Musarò, P. *ESCAPES 2021 - Mediterranean Crossings: Refusal and Resistance in Uncertain Times*, online, 24-27 June 2021.

Giacomelli, E. and Musarò, P. *15th ESA Conference*, online, 31 August – 3 September 2021.

Giacomelli, E. and Musarò, P. *'La Parola al Cinema, Fondazione ente dello Spettacolo, 78. Mostra Internazionale d'arte Cinematografica Biennale di Venezia'*, Venezia, 1-11 September 2021.

Lavenex, S. 'Instruments, methods, mechanisms of externalisation', Responsibility, Legitimacy and Accountability, CONREP, Monash Prato Centre, Prato, Italy, 14 June 2019.

Lavenex, S. 'Politics of International Migration Cooperation' the 18th IMISCOE Annual Conference on "Crossing borders, connecting cultures", hosted by Luxembourg University, online 7-9 July 2021.

Loughnan, C. 'The Harm that Hurts us all', Border Criminologies Centre, Law School, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom 4 June 2019.

Loughnan, C. 'Australia's Offshore Processing Regime', Responsibility, Legitimacy and Accountability, CONREP, 14 June, Monash Prato Centre, Prato, Italy.

Loughnan, C. 'Shifting Borders and the Disappearance of Responsibility', Technologies of Bordering Conference, University of Melbourne 3 – 5 July 2019.

Loughnan, C. *Conversations on Refugees: International and Australian Perspectives on Responsibilities*, with Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, Michelle Foster and Ali Reza Yunespour, Public Lecture, University of Melbourne, 25 November 2019.

Loughnan, C. 'Beholding Violence: Un-treatment in Aged Care and Immigration Detention', Colloquium, *Sites of Violence: The Scene and the Unseen*. University of Melbourne, 9 December 2019.

Loughnan, C. 'Manus Prison theory and the production of hostility and neglect: the new tools of the Kyriarchos', Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology, Perth, 10 – 13 December 2019.

Loughnan, C. and Giannacopoulos, M. 'Closure' at Manus Island: Carceral Expansion in the Open-Air Prison', CONREP International Workshop: *Responsibility Sharing or Responsibility Shedding?*, Deakin University, 17 – 18 February 2020.

Loughnan, C. 'Behind Closed Doors: The Crisis in Australian Immigration Detention', with Edward Santow, David Manne, Guy Coffey, Refugee Advocacy Network, 21 February 2020.

Loughnan, C. Panelist on 'The Politicisation of Seeking Asylum: Manus Prison theory and Australia's response to asylum seekers, seminar convened by the University of Western Sydney and Challenging Racism Project, 28 October 2020.

Loughnan, C. 'University of Bologna: The politics and poetics of expressing the encounter with the other in migration. Paper: 'The image as civil contract: 'Remain'', with Sergei Shubin (Swansea University), in conversation with Pierluigi Musarò, University of Bologna, 2 December 2020.

Loughnan, C. *Pandemic Borders: Hotels, Spaces of Detention, Quarantine and Resistance*, Critical Border Studies Network, 16 February 2021.

Loughnan, C. 'Crime Media and Culture,' COVID-19 Symposium on refugee on protest and resistance, with Anthea Vogl and Sara Dehm, 8 April 2021.

Loughnan, C. 'Refugee and Asylum Policy in Australia', Public Interest Law Network and Deakin Law Alternative, 22 April 2021.

Loughnan, C. 'Medevac Refugees' discussion with Melbourne Law School and Deakin law Alternative and Public Interest Law Network, 22 April 2021.

Loughnan, C. 'In Conversation with Hoda Afshar. Potter Museum of Art Water Forum. Screening of the film *Remain*', University of Melbourne, 25 May 2019

Loughnan, C. 'Resistance, Asylum and the Medical Border', Public Seminar, convened with Sara Dehm, UTS, online with Dr Barri Phatarfod, Moz Azimi, Saba Vasefi and Anna Talbot, 27 May 2021.

Loughnan, C. and Murray, P. (convenors) 'Who's Telling the Story: Refugee, Voice, Image, Word'. Public Seminar, University of Melbourne, online with Behrouz Boochani, Arash Sarvestani, Anna Szorenyi, and Jordy Silverstein, 10 August 2021.

Loughnan, C. 'Global Borderlands: getting to the core of Crimmigration' Panel, on 'The Expanding Carceral State', September 18 2021.

Matera, M. 'The Externalisation and Securitisation of the Mediterranean Refugee Crisis: the implications of the internal-external nexus for the Common Security and Defence Policy', UACES 49th Annual Conference, University of Lisbon, Portugal, 4 September 2019.

Matera, M., Tubakovic, T. and Murray, P. 'Is Australia a Model or Cautionary Tale for Europe? An Assessment of Australia's Refugee Externalization Policies', UACES 51st Annual Conference (online), 6-8 September 2021.

Matera, M., Tubakovic, T. and Murray, P. 'Is Australia a Model or Cautionary Tale for Europe? An Assessment of Australia's Refugee Externalisation policies', Australian Political Science Association Conference (online), 20-22 September 2021.

Murray, P. Organiser of 25th World Congress of Political Science, Brisbane, Australia, Panel on Blurring Borders and Responsibility: The European Union and Refugees, 21-25 July 2018.

Murray, P. Organiser and Chair of 25th World Congress of Political Science Brisbane, Australia, Panel on Rethinking Europe's Boundaries of Action and Inaction: Crisis and Beyond, 21-25 July 2018.

Murray, P. Organisation and presentation at Workshop on 'The Challenges in 'Researching and Writing on Contentious issues in an era of Uncertainty'', Faculty of Arts, The University of Melbourne, 6 February 2019.

Murray, P. 'Europe: challenges and populism', presentation to Panel on Navigating the "New EU", Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce Conference on Brexit, Melbourne, 15 March 2019.

Murray, P. 'Towards closer engagement: regional cooperation and linkages', International Symposium on The Future of Australia-EU Relations: Synergies and Shared Concerns, Auditorium, Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 56, Brussels 1000, 11 June 2019.

Murray, P. 'Introductory Address: Legitimacy and Externalisation of Refugee Policies: legitimising extraordinary responses?', Responsibility, Legitimacy and Accountability, CONREP, Monash Prato Centre, Prato, Italy, 14 June 2019.

Murray, P. 'Reflections on Europe's future: borders, beliefs and Brexit', School of Social and Political Sciences 'Critical Issues' Series, Public Lecture, The University of Melbourne, 31 October 2019.

Murray, P. Panellist on 'The Politicisation of Seeking Asylum: Manus Prison Theory and Australia's Response to Asylum Seekers', Western Sydney University and Academics for Refugees. 28 October 2020.

Murray, P. 'Perspectives on Australia's refugee externalisation policies: comparisons, advocacy and scholarship'. Keynote address to The Gothenburg/Lund/Uppsala Migration Law Network (GLUMIN) Workshop, 19 October 2021.

Musarò, P. 'Border Control and the Impact on Refugees', Australian Italian Lawyers Association, Melbourne, Australia, 10 April 2019

Musarò, P. 'Atlas of Translation: In-between Performative Arts and Migration', Greek Centre for Contemporary Culture Public Event, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, 16 April 2019.

Musarò, P. 'Atlas of Transition: In-between Performative Arts and Migration', seminar hosted by LLCL and Monash Law, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 18 April 2019.

Musarò, P. 'Communication Campaigns to Deter Irregular Migration', Responsibility, Legitimacy and Accountability, CONREP, Monash Prato Centre, Prato, Italy, 14 June 2019.

Musarò, P. International Conference, *Digital Fortress Europe*, ECREA, Brussels, Belgium, 30-31 October 2019.

O'Sullivan, M. 'Cessation and Social Citizenship', *Annual Conference of the Refugee Law Initiative* (online), School of Advanced Study, University of London, June 2021.

Tubakovic, T. 'The Dublin IV Recast: A New Institutional Explanation of Policy Continuity', UACES 48th Annual Conference, University of Bath, September 2018.

Tubakovic, T. 'A New Mode of Asylum Decision-Making?: Assessing the European Council's Role in the EU's "Refugee Crisis"', UACES 50th Annual Conference, (online), September 2020

Tubakovic, T. 'Explaining Policy Continuity in EU Asylum Policy: The Resilience of Policy Beliefs', University of Warwick PAIS Annual Conference, 29 June 2022.

MEDIA

CONREP members have undertaken media interviews in which they have been able to discuss their research and the specific activities of CONREP. Among the interviews conducted have been:

Loughnan, C. in 'Australia set to repeal medical care bill for offshore refugees' by Kate Walton, *Al Jazeera*, 4 July 2019.

Loughnan, C. Cited in 'Medevac Mayhem: Freedom for Some and Others Left Behind', *The Advocate*, 22 February 2021.

Loughnan, C. National ABC Interview, News Radio: 'Calls for Covid Passports to Reduce Need for Quarantine and Increase Capacity for Travel' by Thomas Oriti, 26 February 2021.

Loughnan, C. *The Wire*, Community and Indigenous Radio, interviewed by Elizabeth Neil, 26 February 2021.

Loughnan, C. Interview, SBS Dateline, 'The Number of Refugees Seeking Shelter in the Canary Islands Has Spiked by 600 percent', 13 April 2021.

Loughnan, C. Interview, SBS, Dateline, 'While Tourists Ski, People Risk Their Lives Crossing the Alps to Seek Asylum', 18 May 2021.

Loughnan, C. Interviewed in 'Refugee hunger strike at Melbourne detention centre ends after 17 days with detainees in hospital', *The Guardian*, 7 July 2021.

Musarò, P. 'Immigration, what works and what doesn't' by Dario Castaldo, SBS Italian Radio, 15 April 2019

Musarò, P. 'Migrante avisato...mezzo salvato?' by Dario Castaldo, SBS Italian Radio, 11 February 2020.

O'Sullivan, M. 'US considers indefinite detention for migrating families during processing', SBS World News Radio, August 2019.

O'Sullivan, M. Radio Interview on Asylum Seekers in Immigration Detention (Open letter), Ultra 106.5 Tasmania, 11 March 2021

O'Sullivan, M. The Legalities of the Treatment of the Biloela Tamil Family, ABC News Radio, Drive Program, 15 June 2021

O'Sullivan, M. Commentary on the Resettlement of the Biloela Tamil Family, Triple M news (National), 15 June 2021.

OUTREACH AND CIVIL ENGAGEMENT

Maria O'Sullivan led an open letter which was signed by over 540 academics from Australian universities calling for the release of Medevac refugees who remain in hotel immigration detention.

The letter noted that the academic community has been concerned for some time about the health and wellbeing of asylum-seekers and refugees held in immigration detention, including in hotels. The open letter received significant media and social media coverage and was raised in Parliament by Greens Senator, Adam Bandt (June 2021).

Philomena Murray was a National Convenor of Academics of Refugees.

In 2019, **Philomena Murray** was featured in 'Bright Stars: Stories of Australian researchers who happen to be women' written by Lyn Airey and Kirsten Bartlett. The GrantEd Group. 2022.

AFFILIATIONS

Philomena Murray is a Research Associate of the United Nations University Institute for Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Bruges.

Philomena Murray is a Visiting Research Fellow, Trinity College Dublin.

Philomena Murray was a member of the international think tank, FIDE's [International Academic Council's Working Group on Refugee Externalisation](#).

Philomena Murray was Visiting Professor at the College of Europe, Bruges, 2018.

Philomena Murray was an Expert Evaluator (assessor) of European Research Council Consolidator grants in Brussels. Social Sciences SH2 panel: Institutions, Values, Environment and Space.

Philomena Murray was a Member of the Board of the Research Committee on European Unification (RC3) of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). Elected Vice-Chair of the IPSA Board of the Research Committee on European Unification (RC3) 2016 to 2018.



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